

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 23, 1975

10:00 o'clock a.m.

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL
Chairman

Ramada Inn,
Alexandria, Louisiana



Helen R. Dietrich, inc.
Stenotypists

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221
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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . The regular monthly Board meeting of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Friday, May 23, 1975, in Alexandria, Louisiana, Harvey Clay Luttrell, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

DOYLE G. BERRY, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JERRY G. JONES, Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

DONALD F. WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director.

A G E N D A

MR. RICHARD K. YANCEY

1. Catahoula Lake water management system endorsement. (41)
2. Authorize the purchase of the Allums Tract in Bossier Parish. (8)
3. Authorize the purchase of the Pomme de Terre Tract in Avoyelles Parish. (21)



4. Authorize entering into lease agreement with Avoyelles Parish School Board - 16 sections of land. (34)
5. Authorization to acquire Roy O. Martin property. (36)

MR. HARRY E. SCHAFER

6. Acceptance of bid of \$150,000 by Harvey Industries for furnishing and planting 24,000-plus cubic yards of clam shells at Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation and Black Bay/Bay Gardene. (54)

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Discussion of regional gun range for City of Jennings, Louisiana, Mr. Douglas S. Ham, Parks and Recreation Department. (57)
8. Presentation to Guy Singletary - Outstanding Wild Life Officer (5)
9. Amend regulations regarding Calcasieu Lake (Jerry Jones). (66)
10. Discussion of Reorganization of State Government Plan. (69)

The following matters were also considered at the meeting:



Big game license changes. (55)

Mr. William Day:

Proposed Constitutional amendment (71)

re Wild Life Commission; authority
of Commission Board.

Lifetime hunting license privileges (85)
for former Commission members.

Moratorium, turkey trapping, Saline (87)
Game Management Area.

Clarification of raccoon legislation. (89)

Patrol Boat - Lake Pontchartrain. (91)

Quail program - habitat. (93)

Levee road, Saline Game Management Area. (96)

Mr. A. G. Kirkikis, Webster Parish Police (97)

Jury:

Request for change of date for setting (97)
seasons and bag limits.

Resolution opposing ammunition ban. (101)

Lake Bistineau. (105)

Mr. Roy Yarborough - Discussion of Commission (116)
authority.

Mr. Francis Braud - Louisiana Wildlife Feder- (122)
ation, concurrence with Commission resolu-
tion re state government reorganization.



Mr. Irving George:

Controlled water levels.

(127)

Chennelization.

(136)

Mr. Henry LaCour:

Guns.

(139)

DDT.

(141)

Fire ants.

(141)

Floods.

(142)

Books and research.

(144)

ADJOURNMENT

(146)

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CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: We will get this session underway, ladies and gentlemen. We are glad to have you here. We are going to go with our regular agenda first and then we will get into recommendations for seasons and bag limits.

On my extreme left is Mr. Jerry Jones, Mr. Don Wille, the little man Berry, the smallest one of the group, Mr. Thompson, our Director, Mr. Angelle, and on the end Mr. Lapeyre and next to him Mr. Dupuy. I am the chairman, Clay Luttrell.

We are going to need to keep this in order. I will ask that you do the same thing that I ask each year. If you care to speak, we want to hear you. What you have to say is important and we will, I assure you, consider it, study it over, act on it if it is humanly possible. But I will ask that you hold up your hand or stand up or some way let me know if you want to speak, come to the mike so I can get your name and who you represent and things of that sort for the record. We would appreciate that. We want you to say everything that you have or need to say. We would like to keep it as brief as we can because we have after



this meeting the input for suggestions for seasons and bag limits. Now there may be some of you who would care to speak on subjects other than seasons and bag limits. I think the time for that perhaps would be during the regular business meeting.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I know there are several people who intend to be here and maybe they think we are going to start a little bit late like we generally do. I would like to ask if you would move the No. 1 item on the agenda down so that they can come. They are most interested in this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct. We have an item before that. Mr. Angelle has --

MR. THOMPSON: If you wouldn't mind just moving that down below Harry.

THE CHAIRMAN: Colonel Hogan, if you will bring forward your man, we will take your part first.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, I have asked Colonel Hogan to request the presence of a former agent, who is on my left. I would ask Colonel Hogan to introduce him first, and then we will make a presentation.



MR. MIKE L. HOGAN: Ladies and gentlemen, on my left is Mr. Guy Singletary who for a good many years was a Wild Life Enforcement Agent with the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. The state police about six months ago robbed us of him. We didn't want to lose him. He felt like he was bettering himself and of course we did not try to stand in his way. Our loss was the state police's gain, and the state police's gain was our loss in this case.

Guy was with us as an enforcement agent and a darned good one and I know he is going to make the state police a good officer

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Thank you, Chief. Mr. Guy Singletary was chosen by his fellow agents in the year '73-'74 as the Outstanding Wild Life Enforcement Officer. Two hundred forty some-odd agents voted for this man. They voted for him on the criteria of his wonderful attitude, his involvement in quality cases, his leadership. These are the things that make some of the fine Wild Life officers that we have here in Louisiana at this time.



In behalf of the sportsmen, in behalf of the Commission, in behalf of the people of Louisiana, Guy, we are happy to present to you a plaque as the Outstanding Officer. We will miss you and we will offer you, as I told you this morning personally, that any time you are not satisfied with the state police, you can always come back with the Wild Life and Fisheries. (Applause)

MR. GUY SINGLETARY: Thank you.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Guy was unable to receive this plaque at the Southeastern Association convention because he was attending the police academy school. This is why we are having it today. It is a great opportunity for you people, sportsmen, to see what a Wild Life Officer looks like, anyway. I am sure in discharging his duties as a Wild Life Officer, his wonderful wife had plenty to do with it. When some of these Wild Life Officers are supposed to work forty hours and put in sixty and eighty hours, the wife and the children are usually the ones that suffer, so we would also like to recognize Mrs. Singletary, who is here with us. (Applause) Congratulations. We are proud of you, Guy.



MR. SINGLETARY: Thank you, Mr. Angelle, Colonel Hogan, and a special thanks to Captain Billy James. He was a great leader. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., Mr. Yancey, we will take your No. 2.

MR. RICHARD K. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, this first item on the agenda has to do with the purchase of a thousand acres of land located up in the Loggy Bayou Wildlife Management area in Bossier Parish, just south of Lake Bistineau.

This land has been offered to the Commission by Dr. Allums and the other members of his family for a price of \$110 per acre. We have had it appraised and it falls within the appraised value of the land. We would recommend that the Commission authorize the Director to proceed with the purchase of this property out of appropriations that were made to the Commission this year by the legislature out of the Conservation Fund.

For the benefit of those who are in attendance, this is a continuation of the Commission's



land acquisition program that we started back in 1960, during which time a total of 205,000 acres of land have been purchased by the Commission for the purpose of preserving some of the more valuable wildlife habitat that we have in the state, along with the purpose of establishing additional game management areas to give the public a place to go and enjoy the woods and the fields and the bayous as a place to fish and enjoy outdoor recreation.

This particular tract is all bottomland hardwoods. It has a good population of deer and squirrel and it has potential for development for waterfowl purposes. We would recommend that you authorize the Director to proceed with the papers to purchase this property. Now, Dewey Wills has lost a lot of sleep over this in the past two or three years. We have had difficulty working out, locating all the areas, getting the attorneys up to the point where they told us that everything was in order and we could proceed with it and get a clear title to the property, get title insurance, get the clearances from the Division of Adminis-



tration, and get the Governor's signature on the purchase of the property. We are at the point now where we are ready to proceed with it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Since the Good Lord is not making any more land and since the ability to buy good habitat is getting scarcer and scarcer each day, I am ready for a motion.

MR. THOMPSON: Where is Don Wille? He wanted to make that motion.

MR. JONES: I will make it on his behalf.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, a like sign.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is greatly interested in establishing additional wildlife management areas



in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Commission initiated a program of land purchase in 1961 to accomplish this purpose and to preserve at least a portion of the State's largely disappearing game ranges in various regions of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, certain tracts of land hereinafter particularly described, consisting of a total of 1,015.10 acres, located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana, have been offered for sale to the Commission for the full and true sum of \$110.00 per acre, and

WHEREAS, these tracts, if acquired, will make an excellent wildlife management area for waterfowl, furbearing animals, deer, alligators, rabbits and other forms of marsh life; and also will provide additional public hunting and fishing opportunities for sportsmen throughout the State of



Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of this property has been carefully considered by the Chairman, the Director and all members of this Commission; after which consideration it is the conclusion of all members and the Director that the acquisition thereof will be most favorable and advantageous to the future welfare of the fish and wildlife as a wildlife management area and that acquisition thereof would also be mutually beneficial to the State of Louisiana, this Commission, and the citizens and residents of the State,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission purchase from Dr. W. M. Allums and/or C. C. Allums Estate and from Mrs. L. M. Buckhalter and/or C. C. Allums Estate the following immovable property located and situated in Bossier Parish in Township 15 North,



Range 10 West in Bossier Parish, Louisiana,
to-wit:

BOSSIER PARISH

T 15 N, R 10 W

Section 5:

Lot 9	12.88 acres
Lot 10	38.20 acres
Lot 16	18.28 acres
Lot 17	1.04 acres
Lot 18	2.32 acres
Lot 19	<u>1.08</u> acres
	73.80 acres

Section 6:

S/2, South and West of
Dorcheat Bayou 297.12 acres

Section 7:

All, S. and W. of
Dorcheat Bayou 603.88 acres

Section 18:

N/2 N/2 NE/4 40.30 acres

GRAND TOTAL 1,015.10 acres

The said sale is to be subject to the
following conditions and stipulations:



1. The purchase price of the sale by Sellers to Buyer, its successors and assigns, for the hereinabove described property shall be the sum of ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE AND NO/100 (\$111,661.00) DOLLARS, payable in cash at the time the Act of Sale is passed. The consideration is based upon the agreement that the subject property comprises 1,015.10 acres. The said consideration being determined at the rate of \$110.00 per acre.
2. Real estate taxes for the year 1975 will be pro-rated to the date of the act of sale. All proper and necessary mortgage and other certificates and tax research are to be paid by Seller.
3. The Seller shall deliver to Buyer good and merchantable title to the property. The decision as to



whether Seller's title to the property is good and merchantable shall rest solely with Buyer based upon title opinions rendered to Buyer by attorneys of its selection. In lieu of title opinions rendered to the Buyer by attorneys of its selection, Buyer reserves the right to obtain title insurance on the said property from a title insurance company authorized to do and doing business in the State of Louisiana. Seller agrees to assist Buyer, its attorneys, or the title insurance company in securing any curative matter which Seller may be able to obtain in order to satisfy any requirements of any title opinion or interim title insurance binder rendered to Buyer. All curative matter thus obtained shall be the property of Buyer which is hereby authorized



after passage of the act of sale to file same for record. Final approval of title shall be at the sole discretion of Buyer, its attorneys, and the title insurance company selected by Buyer, and Buyer shall have the right to waive and forego satisfaction of any requirements of any title opinion rendered by its attorneys or title insurance binder hereunder.

4. The act of sale is to be passed before Buyer's notary at the State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or such other location as designated by Buyer within the territorial limits of the State of Louisiana 120 days from the date of this agreement, provided that if bonafide curative work in connection with the title is required, the parties agree to and do extend the time for passage of the act of sale by an additional 30 days. The sale shall be with full warranty and full



rights of subrogation and substitution and shall be in a form acceptable to Seller and Buyer. The property shall be delivered free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, taxes (except taxes for the year in which the act of sale is passed), leases and mortgages (except the encumbrances accepted and agreed to by Buyer).

5. The property described in Exhibit A is conveyed subject to all outstanding valid subsisting oil, gas and mineral interests presently reflected by the records of the Parish of Bossier, it being understood, however, that Seller expressly reserves unto himself and/or themselves, heirs and assigns in perpetuity an imprescriptible mineral servitude covering and affecting all minerals in and under the lands conveyed of every nature and kind whatsoever except sand and



gravel (to be exercised subject to reasonable regulations by Buyer in respect to the use of the surface), which reservation is made to the full extent permitted under the provisions of LSA-R.S. 31:149 et seq., which are acknowledged by the parties to be applicable.

6. In the event Buyer fails to comply with this agreement within the time specified, Seller, without formality beyond tender of title to Buyer may declare this agreement null and void, or Seller, may at her option demand specific performance.
7. In the event Seller fails to comply with this agreement within the time specified, Buyer may, at its option, either declare this agreement null and void or demand specific performance.
8. Occupancy shall be available at the time of the act of sale.



9. This agreement and the sale contemplated hereby is subject to and conditioned upon the approval of the Governor of the State of Louisiana and/or the Division of Administration.
10. The notices, payment and other matters required hereunto shall be delivered or addressed to Seller at an address or location furnished in writing by Seller to Buyer within 30 days of the date of this agreement. Notices, payments and other matters required hereunto shall be delivered or addressed to Buyer: Attention: J. Burton Angelle, Director, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 or at such other address as Buyer may designate by written notice.
11. This agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective



heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns. Where the term "Seller" and "Buyer" are used herein, this shall be deemed to include their respective heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns of such parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Messrs. H. Clay Luttrell, Chairman, or J. Burton Angelle, Commission Director, be and they are hereby appointed, authorized and empowered to act for and on behalf and in the name of this Commission to purchase the aforementioned lands, building and improvements and appurtenances thereon, to sign any and all necessary deeds and documents in connection therewith, to pay the purchase price thereof and all pertinent and necessary and usual expenses to purchaser which said deeds and documents may contain, and to incorporate and include in the said documents and add all additional



stipulations, conditions and provisions as they, in their sole discretion, deem to be to the best interest of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: No. 3, Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: All right, the next item will be handled by Mr. Dupuy.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., Marc, please.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, at our last meeting of this Commission, an offer had been made to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission by Mr. Morgan W. Walker to sell 3,820 acres of land in eastern Avoyelles Parish in the Pomme de Terre swamp area, and the Commission authorized the appraisal of the property. The appraisal was made and the appraisal was \$160 per acre. This Commission by resolution at the last meeting offered to Mr. Walker and his family the purchase of the property at \$156 an acre and Mr. Walker and his family have declined that counter-offer and have again reiterated their willingness to sell to the Commission for the appraised value, which is \$160



an acre.

I have a letter from Mr. Walker, addressed to the Chairman and the Members of the Commission, in which the offer is reiterated to sell to the Commission for \$160 per acre, with the reservation of minerals in perpetuity. In addition, he has waived a request that he had previously made to reserve exclusive use of the property for a period of time. He has waived that request and will deliver possession immediately upon the execution of the sale.

Members of the Commission staff have discussed and looked at the property carefully and there is an access road into the property that is being offered for sale. The access road is a permanent all-weather road and Mr. Walker and his family have made that road available also to the Commission, again at the same price, and additionally an 80-acre tract of land which is cleared land at the same price of \$160 an acre.

With all of this in mind, the land now amounts to 3,924 acres, and the property is available to this Commission for the appraised price.



Now I believe at this point, in the manner in which we have it on the agenda, it would probably be appropriate now, since it is on the agenda separately -- I was not going to discuss the School Board lease until we come to that after --

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we offer to buy the property.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, would you let the record show that I abstained from voting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please let the record show that Mr. Dupuy abstained from voting.

MR. DUPUY: For the benefit of the members of the audience, I am the attorney representing Morgan W. Walker, have done so for twenty years or so, and the property has been in his possession for over thirty years.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Marc.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is greatly interested in establishing additional wildlife management areas in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Commission initiated a program of land purchase in 1961 to accomplish this purpose and to preserve at least a portion of the state's largely disappearing game ranges in various regions of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a certain tract of land hereinafter particularly described in Exhibit A annexed hereto and made a part hereof, consisting of a total of 3,924 acres, more or less, located in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, has been offered for sale to the Commission for the full and true sum of \$627,840.00; and



WHEREAS, this tract, if acquired, will make an excellent wildlife management area for waterfowl, furbearing animals, deer, alligators, rabbits and other forms of marsh life; and also will provide additional public hunting and fishing opportunities for sportsmen throughout the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of this property has been carefully considered by the Chairman, the Director, and all members of this Commission, after which consideration, it is the conclusion of all members and the Director that the acquisition thereof will be most favorable and advantageous to the future welfare of the fish and wildlife as a wildlife management area and that the acquisition thereof would also be mutually beneficial to the State of Louisiana, this Commission, and the citizens and residents of the state;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED



that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission purchase from the OWNERS the following immovable property located in Avoyelles Parish, State of Louisiana, totalling 3,924 acres, more or less, described in Exhibit A annexed hereto and made a part hereof.

The said sale is to be subject to the following conditions and stipulations:

1. The purchase price of this sale by Sellers to Buyer, its successors and assigns, for the hereinabove described property - Exhibit A - shall be the sum of SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY AND NO/100 (\$627,840.00) DOLLARS, payable in cash at the time of the act of sale.
2. Real estate taxes for the year 1975 will be pro-rated to the date of the act of sale. All proper and necessary mortgage and other certificates and tax researches are to be paid



by Seller.

3. The Seller shall deliver to Buyer good and merchantable title to the property. The decision as to whether Seller's title to the property is good and merchantable shall rest solely with Buyer based upon title opinions rendered to Buyer by attorneys of its selection. In lieu of title opinions rendered to the Buyer by attorneys of its selection, Buyer reserves the right to obtain title insurance on the said property from a title insurance company authorized to do and doing business in the State of Louisiana. Seller agrees to assist Buyer, its attorneys, or the title insurance in securing any curative matter which Seller may be able to obtain in order to satisfy any requirements of any title opinion or interim title insurance binder



rendered to Buyer. All curative matter thus obtained shall be the property of Buyer which is hereby authorized after passage of the act of sale to file same for record. Final approval of title shall be at the sole discretion of Buyer, its attorneys, and the title insurance company selected by Buyer, and Buyer shall have the right to waive and forego satisfaction of any requirements of any title opinion rendered by its attorneys or title insurance binder hereunder.

4. The act of sale is to be passed before Buyer's notary at the State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana or such other location as designated by Buyer within the territorial limits of the State of Louisiana 120 days from the date of this agreement, provided that if bona fide curative work in connection



with the title is required, the parties agree to and do extend the time for passage of the act of sale by an additional thirty (30) days.

The sale shall be with full warranty and full rights of subrogation and substitution and shall be in a form acceptable to Seller and Buyer.

The property shall be delivered free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, taxes (except taxes for the year in which the act of sale is passed), leases and mortgages (except the encumbrances accepted and agreed to by Buyer).

5. Seller expressly reserves unto himself, his heirs and assigns in perpetuity an imprescriptible mineral servitude covering and affecting all minerals in and under the lands conveyed of every nature and kind whatsoever (to be exercised subject to reasonable regulations by Buyer in



respect to the use of the surface), which reservation is made to the full extent permitted under the provisions of LSA-R.S. 31:149 et seq., which are acknowledged by the parties to be applicable. It is understood that specifically excluded from the mineral reservation described herein are the natural resources of sand and gravel.

Should Buyer decide to sell or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property subject to this agreement it shall give Sellers written notice thereof, and Sellers shall then have an optional prior right for a period of ninety (90) days after receipt of the notice to purchase same for the price paid to Sellers by the Buyer (\$160.00 per acre), subject to an adjustment upward or downward with the Wholesale Commodity Index for all



commodities published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the period from the date hereof to the date on which the repurchase may be made.

If this particular Index is not being published at that time, the parties hereto agree to base the computation upon a similar or substitute Index which may then be in use.

6. In the event Buyer fails to comply with this agreement within the time specified, Sellers, without formality beyond tender of title to Buyer may declare this agreement null and void, or Sellers may, at their option, demand specific performance.

7. In the event Sellers fail to comply with this agreement within the time specified, Buyer may, at its option, either declare this agreement null and void or demand specific performance.



8. Occupancy shall be available at the time of the act of sale.
9. This agreement and the sale contemplated hereby is subject to and conditioned upon the approval of the Division of Administration, State of Louisiana.
10. The notices, payments and other matters required hereunto shall be delivered or addressed to Morgan Walker, P. O. Box 1088, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301. Notices, payments and other matters required hereunto shall be delivered or addressed to Buyer, Attention: J. Burton Angelle, Director, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, or at such other address as Buyer may designate by written notice.
11. This agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the



parties hereto and their respective heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns. Where the terms "Sellers" and "Buyer" are used herein, this shall be deemed to include their respective heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns of such parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission be, and they are hereby appointed, authorized and empowered to act for and on behalf and in the name of this Commission to purchase the aforementioned lands, buildings and improvements and appurtenances thereon, to sign any and all necessary deeds and documents may contain, and to incorporate and include in the said documents and all additional stipulations, conditions and provisions as they, in their sole discretion, deem to be to the best interest of the Commission.



EXHIBIT A

Tract One: A certain tract of land containing 1,640 acres, more or less, and being the East Half of Section 20; all of Section 21; the Northwest Quarter of Section 27; the North Half and the North Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 28; and the North Half of the Northeast Quarter and the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 29; except any land in row crop cultivation, if any; all in Township One North, Range Six East, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

Tract Two: A certain tract of land containing 2,280 acres, more or less, and being the South Half of the Southwest Quarter, and the Southeast Quarter of Section 10; the South Half of the Southwest Quarter and the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11; the West Half of Section 13; all of Section 14; all of Section 15; the Northwest Quarter and the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 23; and the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24; all in Township One North, Range Six East, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.



Tract Three: A certain strip of land containing four acres, more or less, situated in Section 29, Township One North, Range Six East, and being sixty feet in width and approximately twenty-two hundred feet in length, extending from Louisiana State Highway #451 on the southwest to the property above described in Section 29, on the northeast, to be taken thirty feet on each side of the centerline of the existing roadway used as access to Sutton Lake.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, would you care to discuss the School Board land?

MR. DUPUY: Yes. On Tuesday of this past week I appeared before the Avoyelles Parish School Board. The School Board owns a sixteenth section which is adjoining property owned by Morgan W. Walker and the School Board by unanimous resolution resolved that if the Commission buys this property and creates a wildlife management area that the School Board will execute a surface lease with this Commission on terms mutually agreeable that will enable us, the Commission, to utilize the School Board property as part of the game



management area. I have a letter from the School Board addressed to the Commission to that effect.

I think it would then be appropriate to authorize the execution of the lease with the School Board affecting the sixteenth section after we have acquired title to this property.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. JONES: I will so move to authorize the Director to negotiate with the School Board for a lease to be submitted to the Commission for its approval and execution.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wille has just returned and I like to stole his thunder. I made a motion, not realizing you were going to offer to buy the property in your territory, so I



withdrew the motion and Mr. Jones made the motion in your behalf, so you had better put your O. K. on it.

MR. WILLE: I already gave Mr. Jones my proxy.

MR. THOMPSON: Oh, you had a proxy. I want to see it! (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, that's my board, that's my board! You have got to prove it; don't make a statement unless you can back it up!

O. K., No. 5.

MR. DUPUY: With regard to the properties adjoining the Morgan Walker and the School Board properties in this Pomme de Terre area, some 700 acres is owned by the Roy O. Martin Lumber Company. Its president, Roy O. Martin, Jr., has indicated to me that it is willing to sell to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission its adjoining and contiguous property for the same price that the adjoining property has been appraised. I don't know and I don't think any of us know at this time whether or not the Division of Administration would approve



the purchase of it for that price without an appraisal. It could be that we will need to have an appraisal made of the property and, if so, then we would need authorization to appraise. If, on the other hand, we do not need an appraisal, we can simply execute a buy-and-sell agreement with the company that is willing to sell for the same price, and then in that event I think we ought to do so.

Now, just by way of explanation, the Roy O. Martin acreage includes a lake called Belson Lake. The Morgan Walker acreage included a lake called Sutton Lake. I see a former member and vice-chairman of this Commission, Mr. Henry Clay Wright, in the audience, and I think Mr. Wright can attest to the fact that those two lakes are two of the finest anywhere in this part of the country, not just the state. Belson Lake and Sutton Lake will both be a part of this management area, together with access roads to both of them.

I would like very much to recommend that we proceed with authorization to either purchase if we can or have an appraisal if we must.



MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make that motion again on the first piece, but I would like to say to you this, that Belson Lake I guess is world renowned for having the largest bream that I have ever seen or heard of anywhere in the world. I am sure there are some somewhere else but I am going to stick to it, they are the biggest in the world. This is really a fine lake.

MR. BERRY: I would like for Mr. Clay Wright to make a few comments on this. Come on up.

MR. CLAY WRIGHT: Ladies and gentlemen, Marc is really telling you like it is. It is one of the finest fishing places I guess in Central Louisiana. I think the price is right, the price of land. Like the Chairman told you, they are not making any more land. As long as they have access, and that is what I asked one of them, if they had plenty of access into this property, because in the past the Commission has brought property and we really didn't have the access to it that we needed, and if they have plenty of access to it, I think it is a wonderful project and I would hope that you all would go on and try to buy the rest of the



land.

THE CHAIRMAN: Clay, we are buying the road down the ridge, the gravel road down the ridge.

MR. WRIGHT: How wide?

THE CHAIRMAN: Sixty feet.

MR. WRIGHT: That's wide enough.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think we can pass each other on it.

MR. WRIGHT: May I get permission from the Commission to go and check the lake before you all close the deal? (Laughter) You need somebody to do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, I want to tell him this. I started fishing that lake in 1932 and I was bringing outsiders from Texas here in 1939 and I have proof of it, so I think I should go check the lake.

MR. WRIGHT: Well, let's go together!

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., we will go together.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, I want to say I have heard you and Mr. Wright say this morning that they just aren't making any more land. If you



lived in Morgan City and tried to get up the mouth of the Atchafalaya River and could see those bars and new land pushing up when you are on one of those boats, you would know God is still making some land somewhere.

MR. WRIGHT: The only difference is Ed Kyle is down there now. He is shoving that land on out. I know he is doing that job!

MR. BERRY: I knew somebody was messing in it!

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Clay. Now, did we authorize the --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Jimmie made the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jimmie, you made the motion, and I have forgotten who seconded it. We had no second?

MR. WILLE: I second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that our Director be authorized to proceed with the Roy Martin property.

MR. JONES: How many acres is that?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Seven hundred.



THE CHAIRMAN: Let me get the vote.
Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. THOMPSON: Is that all the land?
What happened to that other land adjacent to it
that we were talking about getting?

MR. DUPUY: It is in the mill but it is
not ready at this point.

THE CHAIRMAN: We think it will come
through, though.

MR. DUPUY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which will block it out
and make a huge block. O. K. Mr. Yancey, we will
get back on our No. 1.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of
the Commission, the next item on the agenda has to
do with Catahoula Lake and the fact that the Com-
mission needs to authorize the Director to issue
a permit to the Corps of Engineers to go into the
Lake and do some additional work there that would



increase the amount of low water drainage capacity that we have on the Lake.

We have got a very, very serious problem on Catahoula Lake. We think that the entire future of that area is at stake insofar as migratory waterfowl are concerned, and we are convinced that unless this additional work is done, that Lake is going to be completely lost insofar as an important waterfowl area is concerned.

The Lake, as we all know, is located just east of Alexandria. It is approximately 26,000 acres in size. It is the primary area in Louisiana, all of Louisiana, for public waterfowl hunting. It has heavy duck usage from beginning in late August and early September right on into April and early May. We think there are somewhere between ten and 15,000 people that hunt ducks on this Lake, and unless we can get this additional low water drainage capacity constructed on that Lake, then the Lake will no longer be able to produce the bumper crop of duck food plants that it has in years past.

Since we are here in Alexandria and since



this issue has been very much in the news recently and since the Corps of Engineers held a public hearing on the matter in Jena the other night, we thought perhaps for the benefit of the other members of the Commission and some of the people in the audience that we would, by way of explanation, show some of these slides and hopefully illustrate just what the problem is and why this additional work needs to be done.

This first slide shows the location of the Lake in Louisiana, about halfway between here and Jena.

This next slide shows the configuration of Catahoula Lake with the dark areas around the fringe of the Lake showing the location of the stand of swamp privet and water elm which have been for many years gradually encroaching out on the Lake bed. The cross-hatched areas show the acreages that are producing the highest quality duck food supply that we know of on any area in the United States. These cross-hatched areas are primarily chupa and millet, and the white area in the middle of the Lake is the pool that remains in



existence in the late summer after water levels have receded to their lowest level. The chupa on this Lake will produce up to about 2,000 pounds per acre and the millet will run somewhere between 800 and 1,200 pounds of food per acre.

Now this pool area in the middle of the Lake is an area that also produces large quantities of duck food plants, primarily spike rushes and sagittarius, and that is the area that is attractive to blue-winged teal when they are coming through in early September. Sometimes when we think about the location of Catahoula Lake, we think maybe Mother Nature planned it that way. In other words, it is located right in the confluence of the Mississippi and the Ouachita and the Red River Valley down which millions of ducks pour each winter, and it looks like Mother Nature said, "This looks like a spot where we need to put a high quality area for migratory waterfowl use, and these birds that come down in the fall can use this area and when they go back in the spring they can use it again." Of course, at different times there have been over a million ducks found on this Lake. The average



wintering population will run around 200,000, but many, many hundreds of thousands of birds come through in the early fall and stop over in here for a couple of weeks before going on down into Mexico and South America.

This shows the Lake in late June and early July. The water levels are beginning to drop on the Lake. The elevation there would probably be somewhere around 32 or 33 feet. It is a great big lake. The bottom of the Lake, as you can see here, is extremely flat. Variation in elevation from one side of the Lake to the other amounts to only about two or three feet, and for each foot that the water drops, there are just thousands and thousands of acres of mud flats that become exposed and free of water. As this happens, chupa and millet begin to germinate, as you can see here. This light brown vegetation is chupa on the higher elevations and in the background, in and around the pool, you can begin to see the millet begin to come in in the marshes there. Every acre of that Lake just turns to solid duck food under normal conditions.



Here is a photograph taken a little bit later on in the summer, as the Lake is continuing to begin to green up. Here is another aerial photograph after the millet has progressed on up to the point where it is just about to mature. Here is a closeup of this wild millet that you hear so much about. You can see those seed heads are so heavy with food for ducks that they are just tilting over there. Of course, there are several thousand acres of this that formerly grew on the Lake. This is the chupa that you find at the higher elevations and this is the plant that produces its food supply on the roots rather than on the seed heads.

Here is a closeup of one of these chupa plants with the black nut in the palm of this man's hand. That is the part of the plant that the ducks use, the mallards and pintails particularly and canvasbacks. Here is another similar shot of the same plant. You can get a better look at it. Some of these individual plants will produce 15, 20, 25 of these tubers. Here is another shot of this chupa plant. You can see there are several tubers on this individual plant, and there are just millions



and billions of these plants that come up on the Lake. Here is a number of these chupa tubers here.

As we all know, this lake bed is also used heavily by livestock. Many thousands of cattle graze on the lake bed in the late summer and also many thousands of heads of hogs also use the Lake. They tend to till this soil out there and we think it even contributes to the annual production of that plant and at the same time they are tilling the soil, they are turning these chupa tubers up where they are more readily available; when the winter rains they fill these hog rootings in and it is just an ideal situation for use by mallards and pintails.

O. K., here is a shot showing water beginning to creep into the vegetation on the Lake. This water would be a couple of inches deep, which is just perfect and ideal for puddle ducks to feed on the seed and the chupa tubers. This is what the Lake looks like, has always looked like for hundreds and hundreds of years, with the hordes of wintering waterfowl that come into the area to take advantage of this available high quality food



supply. Here is another shot which has been typical of what the people of this area have been witnessing on that Lake for many, many years.

All right. Back in the mid-Fifties, we know that there was a very controversial issue developed in connection with the proposed construction of a nine-foot navigational channel on the Ouachita River. The fish and wildlife interests and inside the Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service wanted the lock and dam located above Jonesville so that it would not interfere with drainage of water from Catahoula Lake. Navigation interests wanted the lock and dam put below Jonesville and we had a tremendous controversy that raged in this part of the state for a period of several years. Finally it was resolved and a compromise was reached with the navigation interests and the wildlife people getting together on the point that the lock and dam would be put below Jonesville but a new drainage outlet would be provided for Catahoula Lake that would continue natural conditions on the Lake and permit the dewatering of that lake bed during the late summer months and the



continued production of this duck food supply.

This work was done. The lock and dam was put below Jonesville. The nine-foot navigational channel was created on the Ouachita River. The new drainage canal was cut from Catahoula Lake over to Black River to hit the river below the lock and dam so that the water could continue to drain out to the lowest possible elevations on Catahoula Lake, and a gated structure was put in that channel. Everybody thought that this thing would do the job that would be necessary to continue to maintain natural conditions on that Lake.

However, it didn't do the job and it does a good job in getting the water off the Lake down to an elevation of about 30 feet, but it is below that elevation where we produce the duck food supply which is produced in this zone from about elevation 26.5 up to an elevation of 30 feet, which is about the edge of the tree that you see on the edge of the Lake. What has happened in the last couple of years since the project has been in existence and this particular aerial photograph shows the channel that was excavated from Catahoula Lake.



over to Black River, which is some 10 or 12 miles away, and this shows the gated structure in the channel. You can see the channel that was dredged on out onto the lake bed to provide the low water drainage capacity that would have to be maintained in order to keep this Lake productive of duck food supplies.

In the last year, year and a half, the Lake would get down to a low enough elevation to permit the plants to germinate and then we would get heavy rainfall and it would begin to flood back into that vegetation. It simply couldn't get to that gate and on over to Black River. What would happen, these freshly germinated plants would then be covered by water and it would simply kill them. Prior to the project, once the Lake level dropped and this grass began to germinate and grow, it never would reflood. We never had a problem but we have got it now and it is going to ruin that Lake unless we do something about it.

Once it has flooded, well, last year, the water would then recede off the vegetation; you can see that it is yellow and sickly looking



here on these mud flats, right on the verge of dying, and about that time another rain would come and the water would come back up over this vegetation. Here the vegetation is completely covered by water, and this particular situation just killed last year's crop of duck food. We have lost that crop of duck food three years in a row and duck usage on that Lake has declined by somewhere around -- Bateman, who keeps our inventory information, flies this Lake, keeps up with the duck population, indicates that duck usage has dropped around 90, 95 percent.

Once that Lake level then receded again, this was the mud flat situation we had on up there toward the end of the growing season. Now these mud flats under ordinary circumstances would have been covered by a mature stand of chupa and millet but as you can see here, there is nothing there. These germinated plants have been drowned out, they have been lost, they have been killed. There is nothing there at all for migratory waterfowl to use when the Lake levels rise again during the winter months.



This is a shot of French Fork which served as a main low water drainage artery for Catahoula Lake prior to the navigation project on the Ouachita, and what we have asked the Corps of Engineers to do is to go ahead and provide us with equal drainage capacity through the new gate, the new channel, that we formerly had in French Fork, because the Lake never did reflood during the growing season when we had this drainage outlet. This is basically what we have asked them to do and they had this public hearing over in Jena the other night. There was a lot of opposition to that project, mainly because some people were fearful that it would adversely affect low water stages in Little River, but the Engineers of course say that it absolutely will not, and we agree with them, in any way affect water levels in Little River.

Now this project as we view it is a corrective measure that is going to be necessary to restore natural conditions on Catahoula Lake. The present problem was created by this lock and dam and the creation of the nine-foot navigational channel, and all we are asking the Corps to do is



to give us the same situation that we had before. We requested the project. We feel it is necessary and if it is not done, we think the Lake is going to be lost to waterfowl.

This proposed additional dredging work on the Lake is designed for one thing, and that is to restore the Lake to natural conditions. The Lake is also extremely important for sport and commercial fishing purposes, but this particular project would not in any way affect that whatsoever. It is simply a waterfowl management measure that has got to be taken out there and we think that it should be done and we asked the Corps to proceed with this project and try to get it done by the middle of July of this year. There was some opposition to it. We hope that it won't influence the Corps' thinking to the point that they would not want to proceed with it, because unless the work is done, that area is gone, probably from now on.

The Board action that needs to be taken mainly is that we need to get the Commission to authorize the Director to give the Corps this permit to go on the Lake and do this work, assuming



that they will proceed with it.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation, gentlemen. Could I have a motion?

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. YANCEY: There may be some comments. I don't know if anyone has some comments about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have any discussion on giving the Director permission to issue this assurance? I have a motion by Mr. Berry.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wille. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered, gentlemen. Thank you Mr. Yancey.

Mr. Schafer.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have requested the Division of Administration to advertise for bids for the clam shells to be planted in two areas, the Sister Lake Seed Reservation and Black Lake on the east



side of the river, one on the east side and one on the west side. We had \$150,000 set up in our capital budget. The Division of Administration advertised for bids and received one bid for \$5.92 a cubic yard. This will give us approximately 24,000 to 25,000 cubic yards to be planted. This price is in line, and I would recommend that the Commission accept this bid.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered. Thank you, Harry.

Mr. Thompson, you have something?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, I would like to bring up something we discussed at our informal meeting last night with reference to the big game license, and I am doing this strictly to get it on the record.

Last year at one of our meetings I asked



asked that the big game license be simplified from a point of the sheriffs issuing this license, and some work was done on it but it didn't come out to my satisfaction.

I have a copy here that all the Commission members have seen of what goes on the big game license. What prompted me to make this decision on this request was that I had three sheriffs tell me that they had a tremendous amount of duplication, and many of you have seen lines that have formed, particularly at deer season when you are trying to buy the big game license.

I would like to put it in the form of a motion that we direct Joe Herring to delete from the big game license next year the spaces that they asked to be filled in, namely, race, sex, color of hair, color of eyes, weight, height, feet, inches, age, and any other information that can be eliminated without doing any harm to the Wild Life and Fisheries program. Actually my original request was that we merely have a transfer of your basic license number to the big game license and a signature. However, Joe Herring -- in his absence I



will tell you what his opposition was to this; his opposition was the fact that they picked up these big game licenses to make their surveys, their kill surveys, et cetera, and they needed the addresses, and if they merely had the number it would be a tremendous task to go back and correlate the basic hunting license number with the big game license number. But all that he does need on here is the name and address of the person buying it.

I would like to put it in the form of a motion that we direct Joe to make the necessary changes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

Now, we have No. 7, I believe we have Mr. Douglas Ham, City of Jennings. I would like



you to state your name and who you are representing.

MR. DOUGLAS HAM: My name is Douglas Ham, Director of Recreation, City of Jennings, and I am here representing the City and Jeff Davis Parish Sheriff's Department.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. HAM: Our purpose here today is to set the framework for the 1976 budget if we can, on the development of gun ranges. The new federal laws and the federal pressure and the national pressure on the safety of guns has prompted me to do this, as I am new in the City of Jennings and we have no facilities, or the Parish.

What brought my attention to the availability of future monies is the article that came out from Atlanta in the Baton Rouge paper, THE ADVOCATE, where it stated that monies would be available in the future for this development of gun ranges, operating and maintenance of public targets. So, in the process of developing my recreation facilities and helping with the region, I have noticed that the State has, especially in southwest Louisiana, no public gun range whatsoever.



for safety purposes, to teach classes or teach people that are out of school or in school, either one, the safety of guns.

In my research I have noticed that the total water acreage here in the state is 1,794,775 acres. We have 648 boat ramps on 664 land acres and we have 10,263 feet of fishing pier. We also have 1,752,471 acres of hunting acres. Now, along with this, we have 55 percent of the people in this state that fish. We also have 79 percent of the people in this state that hunt. There is a lot of crossover here, people going both ways. There is 23 percent of big game hunting people that hunt. There is 35 percent with small bore, smaller rifles, and 21 percent of the people in this state hunt for waterfowl.

Now, this is a tremendous lot of people that are doing a lot of hunting, and there are kids that are coming up now and the adults every year are increasing and increasing. This state is in the process, I understand, of setting up gun safety classes. Other states have this mandatory regulation where you can't get your license until you



have gone through these classes and qualified.

What we are trying to do in our southwest area, we only have one, well, it is a private range, which is the Sheriff's Department range, over in Lake Charles. In our whole region there is not one public gun range. In fact, I don't believe that in this state there is one public gun range that is free of charge to the public. There are a number of private groups that have their own gun range but it doesn't settle the problem for the people who can't afford them. What we are trying to do is request the Commission for the 1976 budget to put in for us \$55,000 into your budget committed for it, our gun range.

As you will see from the drawings before you, this is a gun range that has been developed on a regional concept, not just a local type of group. This gun range will give the Commission a good idea of what a quality gun range can be developed for a small amount of money. A lot of people will come in and they will request \$100,000, \$200,000, for gun ranges, but what we have developed here is a very quality type gun range for a small



amount of money that is going to serve a large amount of people. The house connected with this will be your area for teaching gun safety, where we will conduct classes. We are going to have qualified instructors taught by the state to come in and teach these, all the year round. The Sheriff's Department and myself will go in fifty-fifty on this development. We will maintain the maintenance and make sure that this gun range is operated year round properly.

Gentlemen, that is the request that I have today.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Ham, whose property? I am not sure I understood.

MR. HAM: This is 25 acres that is owned by the City of Jennings, and we will use about one-half of this. This gun range has been laid out where in the future when the number of participants increases we will be able to expand on both sides. It has a pistol range, rifle range. It has a skeet and trap combination.

MR. DUPUY: Presently none of it is under development?



MR. HAM: No, sir, none of it at this time is under development.

THE CHAIRMAN: You request from the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission just what?

MR. HAM: For the 1976 budget, it would add that \$55,000 for the construction of this gun range.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to say this. This is quite interesting and we are quite interested in it. Of course, just at this particular time, just as a remark from the Chair, I don't see how we can do any more than just really take this thing under consideration for future reference and future consideration.

MR. HAM: That is what I am trying to do, set the stage now so that this can be developed properly within the next year for the 1976 consideration of your budget.

THE CHAIRMAN: I assure you we will take it under consideration.

MR. HAM: We appreciate that.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will get back with you. Do we have any other discussion, gentlemen?



MR. JONES: I think his proposal is very well taken and I think in addition to considering it for the City of Jennings, and I think the City of Jennings is an excellent location for southwest Louisiana because it is sort of the center of that area, but I think we ought to attempt to do the same thing throughout the state. If we are going to come up with a proposal for a facility like this, we ought to in the next year have the Game Division study the possibility of doing this throughout the state, so that we might come up with one program where we would come up with money to install the facilities like this throughout the state.

Now, when you say '76, you mean for the Commission to the legislature next year?

MR. HAM: Right. This gives us a year where we can work on it solidly.

MR. JONES: I move that we instruct the Game Division to study the idea of installing facilities like this throughout the state on a regional basis.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion, gentleman. Do I have a second?



MR. LAPEYRE: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Lapeyre.
Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

MR. THOMPSON: That is just to study it?

THE CHAIRMAN: Just to study it.

MR. THOMPSON: I will just make a comment to you. I see Bill Day is back there in the back. He practically built one of these things single-handedly, did a real good job of it, and I think it only cost two or three thousand dollars.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the result of the vote, I didn't get it in.

MR. THOMPSON: Everybody voted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Unanimous. So ordered.

MR. THOMPSON: To study it.

THE CHAIRMAN: To study it. So ordered.

MR. THOMPSON: The reason I am emphasizing study is, just as Jerry said, I don't think this Commission could help any one individual part of this state without helping the entire state. In fact, I would vote against just going down to help just you, but we will study it and bring it



out and if it is needed in our gun safety program, which we all know is taking place all over the country, then we might make unified bids for the whole state.

MR. HAM: I appreciate that, and what this does is show you that it doesn't cost you a lot of money to give you a quality range.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.

MR. DUPUY: We certainly appreciate your presentation.

MR. HAM: Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have in the audience I understand Mr. Louis de Launay, Sheriff of Jeff Davis Parish. Mr. de Launay, glad to have you. (Applause) If you would care to make comments, we would be glad to have you do that.

(Inaudible comment by Sheriff de Launay.)

(Mayor of Jennings here introduced himself.)

THE CHAIRMAN: I apologize. I didn't know that or I would have introduced you. (Applause)

MAYOR OF JENNINGS: I appreciate, Mr. Jones, and all of you, accepting this. I will even



invite the whole committee to come to Jennings and look things over. (Inaudible remarks) We are the fastest growing city in the State of Louisiana. Come and see us. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mayor, I would like to make this comment in behalf of your group. I am certain it was an oversight because none of us overlook the Mayor!

(Reply of Mayor inaudible)

THE CHAIRMAN: I recognize Mr. Jones. He has something to bring before the Commission. Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: I have two matters. They are both not on the agenda. One of them is the carryover from last meeting, which was tabled until this meeting. It involves the regulations we adopted pertaining to Calcasieu Lake.

To refresh your memory, I think it was at the March meeting we adopted some regulations governing the use of nets, net fishing in Calcasieu Lake. These regulations came out of many meetings that were held between the commercial fishermen and the sport fishermen regarding their controversy



about the use of nets for catching redfish and speckled trout. As you recall, we have an ongoing study now of Calcasieu Lake to determine the effect of net fishing. The group had one amendment which they desired to make to the regulations. The matter was tabled last meeting, and that involved amending the regulations to provide that from June 1 to Labor Day there would be no net fishing during the daylight hours.

Since our last meeting a bill has been introduced in the legislature to accomplish that. I think it would be fair and wise for us to allow the legislature to go forward with that proposal and have it as an act of the legislature for the very reason that while we are doing our study, one of the big advantages the biologists will have is he has access to the Commission to change regulations that he feels should be made. As to Calcasieu Lake, the legislature has authorized us to make the regulations and this gives our biologists studying the lake a tool to use. I feel confident that if today we amend those regulations to put this provision in there that the bill pending in the legis-



lature would not be pursued.

Accordingly, I would like to move -- I don't want to say that we bring out from under the table, but that we amend the regulations we adopted in March to provide that in Calcasieu Lake between June 1 and Labor Day that there be no net fishing during the daylight hours.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Any discussion? Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. BERRY: I am opposed to it, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, one no vote. Two no votes. All right, let me count the votes then. One, two, -- we will call the roll.

MR. THOMPSON: That's all right. It passed.



THE CHAIRMAN: It passed.

MR. JONES: I have got another matter that is not on the agenda. It involves the reorganization, as it pertains to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. I think we should make our position clear if we have a position. On my own I attended two committee meetings at the legislature in Baton Rouge dealing with the question of reorganization of the state government as it pertains to Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

As you know, the Constitution provides that the state government shall be reorganized into no more than 21 agencies, and the plan that apparently is proposed puts us under an agency called the Department of Natural Resources. I think this is contrary to what the sportsmen have wanted for years and what they put into effect when they put the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in the Constitution in 1954. While I was at those meetings I sort of got the impression that this Commission has never taken a position and expressed definitely to the legislature how we feel on it. I think it would be appropriate for



us to let them know how we feel. I don't know if that has got any weight but I think we should make our position clear.

I noted at that hearing the Wildlife Federation was represented by its president and went on record very clearly as saying that they wanted the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to remain as it is and to be one of the 21 agencies and not to be under a Department of Natural Resources. I think that reflects the feeling of the sportsmen of Louisiana and I would like to make a motion that this Commission go on record as favoring a reorganization plan that would have the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission as one of the 21 agencies, not under the Department of Natural Resources.

MR. BERRY: I will second that, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion and the second. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)



THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

Anybody else on the panel have something to bring forward?

Gentlemen, I have several people who need to be heard before twelve o'clock. This finishes the agenda and I will call on these people so that they can get out. I will assure you that you will be called on also. I didn't get your name but you will be called.

MR. THOMPSON: No, this is not the public hearing. This is just other business under our regular meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have Mr. Bill Day and he has requested to be heard before noon so he can get back to his regular job. Bill.

MR. WILLIAM DAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commission Members, Mr. Angelle --

THE CHAIRMAN: Bill, may I ask --

MR. DAY: Wait a minute. And the Mayor.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- this doesn't have anything to do with seasons and bag limits.

MR. DAY: No, sir, it does not.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. Thank you, Bill.



MR. DAY: It has to do specifically with the authority of this Board, for one thing. I am disturbed about something, gentlemen, that took place on Tuesday, February 25 meeting, 1975, in which Mr. Thompson made a motion, according to your official minutes, which I read, and I will quote Mr. Thompson.

"MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if this is the time for me to bring it up but yesterday at our informal meeting the thought ran through my mind and I think many of us when we were squabbling over how some monies were going to be spent, where it was going to be dedicated and how it was going to be taken from the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and I am speaking of monies generated by the Wild Life and Fisheries, natural resources, license fees, et cetera, et cetera. I would like to ask this Commission to join with me in a motion that we go on record and direct our personnel to prepare the necessary legislation to be one of, I say that plurally, the first to go on record as asking the legislature to present to the people of the State of Louisiana



a Constitutional amendment to this new monster that we have, the Constitution, which may I go on record I did not vote for it, and put us back in our rightful place with the funds that we deserve and generate, not asking for anything from anyone but only to keep those which are ours to begin with and that our people, Mr. Yancey, the Director, Dr. St. Amant et cetera all work together to formulate just what should be done, in only a fair vein, and approve this motion that we so instruct the legislature to present to the people at the next election at the proper time a Constitutional amendment with these guidelines.

"MR. JONES: I will second that.

"THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Jones. Is there any discussion?

"DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Is the word 'instruct' proper or 'recommend'?

"MR. THOMPSON: I want to instruct. I don't want to recommend anything. I want to instruct.

"DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Do you want to instruct the legislature to do that?



"MR. JONES: I think he meant instruct you all to recommend.

"DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You are instructing us to recommend?

"MR. THOMPSON: I want to instruct you all to prepare the proper form to be presented to the legislature, to recommend to the legislature. And to ask them, you can't instruct them, but to ask them to adopt it to be presented as a Constitutional amendment at the proper time. I don't have those dates. In other words, I am not trying to tell anybody I can't tell but I think if we vote unanimously that will mean that you will do.

"THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Veillon, would you come up so we can get it on tape.

"MR. EDGAR VEILLON: I would like to say the Wildlife Federation goes on record wholeheartedly supporting this action.

"THE CHAIRMAN: We appreciate that, Mr. Veillon. One of the things that has us a little bit shaky is not knowing what will happen to the funds that the Commission generates as of its own. Of course, this is no one's fault right now but I



believe that Mr. Thompson has a motion that perhaps would clarify and certainly would benefit the Commission if passed. Now we have such a motion. Is there any more discussion? Does anyone care to discuss this? I have a motion and a second. Those in favor, say aye."

And in unison it was so ordered.

Now, gentlemen, that is not the legislation that was prepared, as we well know it was not the legislation that was prepared and on Friday, April 18, this matter was again discussed by the Commission in which we are dealing with a matter we don't need to discuss in detail apparently and that is what was prepared with the assistance of the Legislative Council and Mr. Henderson, a piece of statutory provision that would attempt to put these funds in a special fund inside of the treasury.

Now apparently this didn't satisfy all of the people on the Commission because there are, and I quote Mr. Wille:

"What we are doing is protecting ourselves until we get another governor that doesn't hunt or



fish."

"MR. WILLE: Well, I am just thinking about looking down the road, Burt.

"THE CHAIRMAN: This is good and I really appreciate what you fellows are trying to do here.

"MR. WILLE: I would like to see this thing go through a little more definitely. But I think it is dedicated money. I still swear it is dedicated money and the hunters feel it is dedicated money, and indeed, gentlemen, as a hunter, I do."

Mr. Angelle prepared some comments in the newest edition of THE CONSERVATIONIST, saying, specifically, "During the past few months numerous individuals and organizations have expressed doubt and concern."

I am one of those individuals. Now I am questioning, gentlemen, the authority of this Board and as to who runs what. The Commission was instructed by you in February to prepare a Constitutional amendment for presentation to this legislature and there are numerous references throughout some seven or eight other pages in some six meetings that I have gone through where I find references to this



Constitutional amendment.

Now, Mr. Thompson, may I ask you, sir, was it your intention that this be prepared for this session of the legislature?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir, it definitely was.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, could you tell me, please, sir, why it was not?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Bill, I don't have the answer for why it was not.

MR. DAY: Is there an answer available? Well, then, could you describe for me then perhaps the authority of the Board and how it is under the law?

THE CHAIRMAN: You mean the authority of this Board?

MR. DAY: Yes, sir. The authority of that Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: This Board is a policy-making, budgetary control board.

MR. DAY: It sets the policy for the Commission staff, is that correct, sir?

THE CHAIRMAN: Sets the policy for, yes,



the entire Commission staff.

MR. DAY: All right, sir. Then is a direction, instruction, strictly interpreted as it says here, a statement of policy?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, but I think if you read that, if I remember the discussion --

MR. DAY: I read it exactly as it is written.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct, but as I remember it, there was no specific time set. At the proper time?

MR. DAY: Mr. Luttrell, I am well aware of that proper time thing. As a matter of fact, I pointed that out to you myself. But it does say, let's see, on page 34 of the same edition -- no, that's not the right reference.

MR. THOMPSON: Bill, maybe I can answer, maybe I can --

MR. DAY: Was it your intention that this be prepared for this session of the legislature? Was it the intention of the Board?

MR. THOMPSON: Do you want me to answer?

MR. DAY: Yes, sir.



MR. THOMPSON: O. K. Maybe, if I may -- incidentally, Bill Day has my minutes of the meeting; I wish you would quit writing on them! He requested my minutes and I of course was most willing to give them to him. It was definitely my, and I think the Board by their vote, that a Constitutional amendment be presented for the legislature to adopt to be presented to the general public at the next, proper time, I will say.

MR. DAY: You meant legislative session, did you not?

MR. THOMPSON: I will say this, I will try to answer your question. I may be wrong, but as I understand it, the Governor of the State of Louisiana asked that no Constitutional amendments be placed, or I think I am correct, be placed in the legislature, through the legislature, this year, and give it a chance to operate or to function. I don't think Mr. Angelle attended to this business; were I Mr. Angelle I probably would not have attended to it. The Governor probably told him we don't want any Constitutional amendments so it wasn't put in.

While I disagree with Mr. Angelle, I will



have to say Mr. Angelle has done a very good job for Wild Life and Fisheries.

I am going to have to elaborate quite a bit further, if you want this all to come out, I might just tell you, I made a statement on a program with Bill Day that probably whetted his appetite to bring this before the Commission today. I didn't do it with any reservations. I merely said basically these thoughts, that I thought that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission if not moot would be within a very short time. I said that I didn't think we had any power, and this goes back to when things were taken away from the Commission, such as giving Dr. Glasgow full power and all authority -- this was a Constitutional amendment, by the way -- but as I analyzed it, the powers of this Commission have become very, very small, if we have any power.

This is one of the things that brought about my thoughts that we needed a Constitutional amendment to put this Commission -- this is a blue ribbon Board; I believe that this is the terminology that the people down through history use in the way



it was set up, but I don't think we are functioning as a blue ribbon board. This is probably the most economically run board in the state of Louisiana because the per diems, et cetera, which are \$25 per meeting, and the expenses are practically nil, so that the sportsmen of the state of Louisiana are getting the benefit of what is supposed to be the expertise of the people sitting on this board -- I don't know whether I have any expertise, but whatever they are. This thing can amble on and on.

This is what generated these questions that Bill is asking now, and I think that probably this is the way that I should answer, if this is correct.

MR. DAY: Well, let me make this perfectly clear. In no way do I mean to detract from the ability of Mr. Angelle nor what he has done for this state. I commend him for being a very fine Director and for lasting a hell of a lot longer than any of the rest of them. I am perfectly well aware of the fact that the Governor said he did not want a Constitutional amendment, and I had the



pleasure of the Governor doing a two-man talk show with me for two hours sometime back where he assured me that this matter would be taken care of, but I worry about the Governor, because he flies a lot and he does a lot of things and he is a gambler, and I just wonder, you know, like Mr. Wille, what happens down the road.

Gentlemen, we have got a year ahead of us to see if this will generate the funds that I was assured by at least three of you gentlemen on this board would generate back to me in my behalf as a result of an increase in the hunting license fees. Now, that is what I am concerned about.

MR. THOMPSON: Bill, you are fixing to get on me and I will get right back on you. I did say that and I was for an increase in the hunting and license fees --

MR. DAY: And I opposed it.

MR. THOMPSON: -- that's right, but I also was against the Constitutional Convention, --

MR. DAY: So was I.

MR. THOMPSON: -- which negated the things that I was for, but unbeknown to me at the



time that I was for them, I didn't know that they were going to be negated by this new convention, so don't get on me about it.

MR. DAY: Well, the point is this, we nevertheless have been ripped off. It's that simple.

MR. THOMPSON: There is no question about that. I will come back --

MR. DAY: And my opposition to it was not that it wouldn't create a benefit but, as I told Mr. Angelle and you and Mr. Luttrell, my opposition was that there was not a detailed plan for the expenditures of these funds, and that is still my objection to it, that we do not have a long range published plan for expenditures of these funds. I would like to see this Commission direct the staff to develop some long range planning. Just as these gentlemen have brought up this business of rifle ranges in the City of Jennings, this could certainly be developed all the way across the state in conjunction with the hunter safety program. Sooner or later the anti-hunting forces are going to force us to have some hunter training



before licensing.

But long range planning, never has anybody in the legislature ever been presented a long range plan to my knowledge. It has been one of the reasons that the budget has been cut down and discussed so much in the past because there hasn't been a selling program on what we could do ten years from now.

MR. JONES: I am going to disagree with you about that. There are a couple of points that I want to talk about. I can't speak with authority as to what the new Constitution provides but if it is like the old one, and it probably is in this respect, I don't believe -- Burt, is there a limitation as to when we can have introduced Constitutional amendments? Under the old one there wasn't a limit, was there?

MR. DAY: They could be introduced at any time during the session.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You have a limitation even under the old Constitution, and there is a limitation in the new one.

MR. JONES: There is? And that time has



already passed?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I think so.

MR. DAY: Well, I will leave it with you on that. There is another thing, on page 127 of the Tuesday, February 25, 1975, meeting, in which again, Mr. Thompson, what did you do -- you chickened out? O. K. Mr. Thompson made a motion in regard, and I am not going to read it, because it rambles and rambles and rambles, and once you get him started, he is hard to stop, but at any rate it revolves around a resolution that was adopted by the Commission that each member of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission would exercise a lifetime privilege of a hunting license or fishing license in the state of Louisiana.

Now, again, the Commission staff was directed to proceed with this permanent license primarily for former Commission members, and I would like to have some brief comment if I could as to what the status of that particular situation is now.

MR. BERRY: Joe Herring --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I believe we ought



to ask Joe to work on that. Joe, are you here?

MR. DAY: Do you want to read it out of the book, Joe? It is just dealing with Jimmie's proposal on the permanent license for former Commission members. This was February that it was brought up and the staff was directed to do it. The word "direct" is used again.

MR. HERRING: Directed to do it.

MR. DAY: Well, did you have any time limit on that? I mean, are the board members going to have to be deceased before they got this, or did you have an intention of doing this --

THE CHAIRMAN: Bill, there were several things in the way of that. I remember that quite well and I am much in favor of it, but there are several things in the way of it, and we may have to have, and one thing we had to look into, we may have to have some legislative --

MR. DAY: I just wanted to know if you still had it in mind.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is in mind.

MR. DAY: Now, there is another thing here. Joe is probably going to get onto this.



Now, back at that same meeting -- this was a very interesting meeting -- on Page 31 and Page 34, there was the setting of a special turkey season in the Saline Game Management Area. In that meeting there was a great deal of discussion about trapping and the Board voted a resolution that there would be a moratorium on trapping in the Saline Game Management Area for a period of two years if the special season had to be closed by high water.

I just wonder what the Board's position is on that. I didn't know how many people knew about that. I didn't until I read it, that there was going to be a two-year moratorium on trapping in Saline.

MR. THOMPSON: I put that in because -- do you want me to comment again?

MR. DAY: I just want to know if it is still in effect and is going to be.

THE CHAIRMAN: It hasn't been rescinded at all.

MR. DAY: All right, gentlemen.

MR. THOMPSON: The reason for that, Bill,



was this, by way of explanation. Probably I am monopolizing this, but you seem to be directing all of these questions towards me, and I don't want to be hesitant about --

MR. DAY: You are just sticking your head out there and taking them.

MR. THOMPSON: Sir?

MR. DAY: That's all right. Go ahead.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, when the turkeys were put in Saline, they were brought in from another area, or, as the old boy says, in the beginning, and these people around here were told, or the state was told, in fact, that we would put a bunch of turkeys but they would not have a season until we had enough turkeys to trap off of this area to put onto other areas, just as Saline had gotten their turkeys. O. K. This thing has come to pass, or in my estimation it has, so because of the high water -- you know, there is one bad thing that happens to most people in an area of the state, they go to calling everything in that area theirs, when it is not, it is ours, it is the whole state's, but, anyhow, we here in Central Louisiana call the



turkeys on Saline our turkeys, but with the promises or with the statements that were made in the beginning that we would raise turkeys, when we got ten turkeys, we would take five of them off and then that would leave five, and then we would take those five for huntable population. O. K., so these people have not had a season. It was my desire that they have a season or that the turkeys not be transplanted to other areas until such time as we did have a season, which by now we are entitled to.

MR. DAY: O. K., I just wanted to make sure it was still on the record.

Now, on Page 16 of the Friday, April 18 meeting, 1975, there is a discussion of the new provisions of the raccoon law. Marc, you made the statement, "An automatic rifle is permitted. All you are talking about is single ball ammunition rather than scatter shot." I don't care what you do about it, but I do know, Mr. Thompson, that you were interested in getting daytime coon hunting so that a kid in the swamp on a deer hunt or something, or squirrel hunt, could kill a coon.

MR. THOMPSON: That is correct.



MR. DAY: I point out to you, sir, that I think that that has been eliminated by the law in great part because the law that is presently in the legislature does not provide for the use of a shotgun. It provides for the use of an automatic rifle or standard .22 rifle single ball ammunition rather than scatter shot, which means that some kid on a deer stand is not going to be carrying, generally speaking, a .22 rifle.

Now that is the way I interpret the law and it was a question Marc specifically asked in that meeting.

MR. THOMPSON: Can that be changed if that is the case, Burt?

THE CHAIRMAN: It can be amended on the floor, yes.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I think Bill has misinterpreted the provisions of the law. Mr. Greg Libscomb is here, who has prepared the legislation. (Inaudible comment) Night-time hunting. Single ball.

MR. DAY: All I am trying to do is get some clarification on the law so I can talk about



it a little bit.

MR. THOMPSON: I don't know.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Thank you for bringing it to our attention but it deals only with night-time hunting.

MR. DAY: Now, one more thing and then I am going to -- I didn't ask a thing about that patrol boat. Is it still running up and down Lake Pontchartrain?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. It is still running up and down.

MR. DAY: Well, there again, I would like to ask who sets the policy for this Board. Has the Board ever authorized that, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, the Board has not authorized that.

MR. DAY: How much is that costing me?

THE CHAIRMAN: You mean costing the state?

MR. DAY: I am part of this state, Mr. Luttrell, and a taxpayer. I am asking, how much does it cost?

THE CHAIRMAN: If you ask me just for your part, I was going to tell you --



MR. DAY: I don't know. I wonder to myself -- all right, if you can give me what the whole total is, I will figure out my part of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. My understanding is it is about \$10,000 a month.

MR. DAY: \$10,000 a month. Is that coming out of Wild Life and Fisheries funds?

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, at the present, yes.

MR. DAY: And it has been.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct.

MR. DAY: The Board did not authorize this.

THE CHAIRMAN: It was not brought up in the Board meeting.

MR. DAY: It never has been.

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. DAY: Mr. Thompson, I thought you told me the Board set the policy.

MR. THOMPSON: No, I didn't tell you that.

MR. DAY: O. K.

MR. THOMPSON: No, sir. I said we used to set it. I specifically have told you that I think that this Commission is a thing of the past



as far as it -- all it can do now is kind of sit up here and do a few little things, make a lot of noise over the microphone and you boys write it up in the paper.

MR. DAY: Marc surprised a lot of people with a very well prepared quail program for the state which I understand the Division of Administration has approved the funding for it, is that correct, Marc?

MR. DUPUY: To the extent of \$274,000.

MR. DAY: To the extent of \$274,000.

Well, there was an instance about a month ago here in Central Louisiana in which we had a series of severe thunderstorms and some tornadic activity. I would like to offer this for your consideration and I would like to work with you if you think this is a worthwhile idea. I know that you are primarily going to be concerned with habitat improvement. There are some twelve sections of land in Vernon Parish that have been or will be, when they are finished cleaning up, completely denuded, absolutely totally blank of any vegetation whatsoever, twelve sections. In Rapides Parish there are approximately



twelve more sections of land that were likewise denuded by these thunderstorms, and this is a map prepared by the U. S. Forest Service that shows the approximate path through national forest lands and other lands in between which are the properties of International Paper, Roy O. Martin and others, an approximate mile-wide swath some 25 miles long.

I had a brief discussion with a district ranger. That is as far up as it went. That is all the time I had. They are quite acceptable to the state of Louisiana cooperating with them under your program of using this as perhaps a nucleus of your quail habitat establishment here in the state. They are in the process now of taking out some 30 million board feet of lumber in this lower Vernon Parish area. That lower Vernon Parish area, incidentally, primarily goes across Fort Polk, which we already have an arrangement with Fort Polk. It also goes across the old Polustrous (phonetic spelling) experimental forest, the U. S. military reservation, where they did have an agreement but no longer do have, and that, gentlemen, is



100,000 acres of land in this green that if we could get over our abhorrence of a few cows that could be used as a game management area, every inch of it, and I was assured of that today by the United States Forest Service. Incidentally, the national forest does seem to be thriving with a few cows in it. They have reduced the population from about seven to two thousand and they are quite well managed.

I do know that we have, I think, some 25 acres or maybe it is 25 feed plots in that particular area for quail.

MR. DUPUY: That is an excellent suggestion. We are presently working with Lamar Bezon (?) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife, I mean Forestry Service, and of course with the International Paper Company, and we will pursue this devastation area and perhaps there will be some of that acreage that would be made available to us.

MR. DAY: I think that it would all be made available to you because it is being totally clear-cut. Forty-five year old slash pine, like they are taking out some 100 truckloads of timber



a day.

MR. DUPUY: That includes some of the devastation around Woodworth?

MR. DAY: Well, I have been over it all, every inch of it, both by air and on the ground. That is state forest, so I don't know what the situation is there, but I did discuss this with the Forest Service and they are agreeable to this proposition.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you. May we use that map, review it?

MR. DAY: May I get you another one between now and the end of the week? I have got an article to write on it and I need it right quick.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your time. I appreciate the interest and the time and the courtesy you have given me, except for one thing. One thing. I had a talk with Norman Haig the other day and he told me that he had volunteered his equipment and men to help you build that levee road in the Saline Game Management Area and would be glad to do it at his expense if you want to.



take him up on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have already brought it up and we are going to take him up on it.

Now, we have to change tapes, gentlemen, so I will have to call a halt for just a few minutes. Then I have promised the police juryman from Webster Parish next on the agenda.

(Brief recess)

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, we are ready to continue with the program. I have at the mike now a police juryman from Webster Parish, Mr. Kirkikis.

MR. A. G. "IKE" KIRKIKIS: I am Ike Kirkikis, a Webster Parish police juror. I have approximately three items I would like to talk to the Commission on, Commission business, if you don't mind please.

The first item, I believe you received the resolution from the Webster Parish Police Jury, also from the District Police Jury, the Fourth District Police Jury, and also the Police Jury Association, concerning the matter of changing the season and bag limits dates. I believe you



changed it when you received our first request from the Webster Parish Police Jury from July to June. We have gone on record, as President of the Association for the Fourth District, and I would like to read this resolution and turn over a copy to you. It says:

"WHEREAS, the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission of the State of Louisiana fixes hunting seasons annually and publishes the same for dissemination to the public, and

"WHEREAS, the citizens have expressed a desire that the dates of the hunting seasons be published on or before April 1 of each year so that vacations may be arranged to allow citizens to take time off to hunt during the seasons declared by the Wild Life and Fisheries,

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Fourth District Police Jury Association of Louisiana that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission of the State of Louisiana be hereby requested



to hereafter publish the dates of the hunting seasons on or before April first each year so as to accommodate the citizens of this state in making full use of the hunting seasons."

This occurred and passed unanimously during the January 18, 1975 meeting.

The reason we brought this up, we have large industries like Riley-Beard, International Paper, postal services of the state, that try to get their vacations set in the first quarter of the year. By that they like to know the hunting. We have a tremendous amount of sportsmen from our area that do work for these particular concerns and we are requesting if it is feasible that this Commission can possibly relate a date of setting seasons around the April first date. We know that FIELD & STREAM and other magazines that you find in the April edition they will have theirs already set and Louisiana says "to be announced".

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, we have to wait for the federal regulation input before we can set many of those and they are just not here



by April first. Now there are some seasons that could be set early but then we would have to go to the printer more than once.

MR. KIRKIKIS: I understand.

THE CHAIRMAN: And if this little bulletin is to be complete, it cannot be complete until we have had the federal input on doves and ducks and so forth, giving us the regulations. That is the reason we set them as late as we do.

MR. KIRKIKIS: Mr. Chairman, what this would probably mean is not the printing your booklet, but to announce feasible seasons as you see fit or as you get the proper information from your biologists and what-have-you and then compile it at a later date for finalization in your booklet. If it is possible and feasible, this is what. Especially we are referring to deer, our deer season, if we can get it, and in many cases we can find that the deer population, by the end of the following season, that you can come up with a reasonable amount unless you have high waters or deer kill in certain areas, that you can find an area that you can determine the season. I am referring



mostly to deer.

O. K., any other questions on that? I am going to move to another topic right quick.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K.

MR. KIRKIKIS: This other one, the Webster Parish Police Jury has passed, and I am sure you saw this in UPI report of the Consumer Products Safety Commission wanting to ban ammunition, especially gun ammunition. We passed a resolution to oppose this, and I want to read this and refer it to the Commission to take any action possible, that the Commission can go along with this.

(Reading) "WHEREAS, the United Press International has reported that the Consumer Protection Products Safety Commission, Washington, has asked for public response on a proposed ban on pistol ammunition on the grounds it is a hazardous substance;

"WHEREAS, the Webster Parish Police Jury deeming it in the public interest pronounced its opinion on behalf of the citizens of Webster Parish on the question, the Webster Parish Police Jury



taking cognizance of the constitutional rights of the citizens of these United States to keep and bear arms,

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Webster Parish Police Jury declares its opposition to any proposal before the Consumer Protection Safety Commission which would ban pistol ammunition on any grounds."

This passed. I sent a letter to our Congressional delegation and, if I may take the time to read one of them that I think represents most of the people and the sportsmen of Louisiana, this is from Congressman Waggoner. It says (reading):

"Dear Ike:

"Thank you for your recent communication with regard to the Consumer Products Safety Commission proposed ban on the sale of handgun ammunition.

"I have already registered my formal opposition in no uncertain



terms to this attempt to restrict the American people's constitutional right to keep and bear arms which, as far as I am concerned, also applies to ammunition. Gun control is a constitutional matter which cannot be settled by administrative action by a commission. My views on this subject haven't changed.

"I have long been opposed to legislative and administrative acts which infringe on these rights of Americans and have sponsored the legislation H. R. 5712 which would prohibit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission from restricting the sale or manufacture of firearms or ammunition. This bill is currently pending before the House in the Foreign Commerce Committee.

"The late Director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, used to say each and every year to the Congress that the best deterrents to crime were, first, a speedy trial, and second, a punishment in the event of



a conviction that was consistent with the crime. I think that part of the problem today is that punishment in many cases has not been severe enough and that the courts have been too lenient in their parole policies. In mollycoddling the criminal the courts have been saying in effect that the rights of the accused are more important than the rights of the society as a whole.

"I have reintroduced legislation this Congress relating to this problem which would impose a mandatory non-parole sentence of not less than 20 years nor more than 40 years for use of firearms during the commission of any felony or mandatory death sentence if the individual other than one participating in the crime loses his life as a result of the felony. I personally feel that the enactment of this legislation would go a long way



in helping to reduce crime rates in the United States without penalizing the law-abiding citizen who wishes to own his guns.

"All my wishes, Joe Waggoner."

I think that is the way I feel according to this matter right here and I would like to, if I may, present the Commission with this resolution and let it go on record that Webster Parish has given this resolution against the ban of ammunition.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MR. KIRKIKIS: All right, the next one that I would like to bring up, I guess I sound like a broken record with this one. What I heard today would probably make it seem the same thing, but it is about Lake Bistineau. We have had quite a bit of controversy about Lake Bistineau and we have come up with a conclusion in Webster Parish, with a recommendation, and possibly some of you may know about it, that the fluctuation of the water is always the best deterrent to most of our problems. It was proven by slides here by your assistant director with Catahoula and it made an



excellent lake every year for ducks and what-have-you. I will read this resolution.

"WHEREAS, the Webster Parish Police Jury is cognizant of the worsening duck weed and moss situation in Lake Bistineau, and

"WHEREAS, Lake Bistineau could be a more vital recreation and economic boost to Webster Parish and the surrounding areas, and

"WHEREAS, an early drawdown has been time and time again recommended by marine biologists and other experts in the field but never effectively carried out, and

"WHEREAS, in 1974, the first time an early drawdown was supposed to be started Labor Day but due to the administrative delays and heavy rainfall, the drawdown came about much too late and therefore very little good came out of the 1974 drawdown, and

"WHEREAS, the Webster Parish



Police Jury deplores the atrocious conditions presently existing and getting worse in Lake Bistineau,

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Webster Parish Police Jury that it urges a drawdown of Lake Bistineau be commenced on or before July 1;

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be sent to respective members of the state legislature and this Commission."

Dated the sixth day of May of this year.

If I may, I would like to also reiterate a letter of endorsement of this by the Webster Wildlife and Sportsmen Club. It says, "The unanimously passed resolution by the Webster Parish Police Jury in special session the sixth day of May, 1975, was read to the Webster Parish Wildlife and Sportsmen Club May 21," which was just the other day, "and we agree that a copy of the endorsement be sent to officials of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and legislators and other



governmental authorities having jurisdiction in this area, advising the whole body of this club strongly endorses and supports the said resolution," and it is signed by Judd Hale, Secretary-Treasurer and President Harmon Drew, one of our representatives.

If I may, I will pass this resolution down to you.

The fact that I would like to bring up, gentlemen, about Lake Bistineau, I have been praying for years that these fine rains the Good Lord has been bringing down may blow that dam out and we wouldn't be worried about the fluctuation for a while. It nearly done it this year. It came pretty close and we was hoping it would and bring it down to the proper level.

We respect the politics that are played within this Commission sometimes but we would like to see the lake pulled down to its normal level, as far as it can go. Of course, the gates on the lake, I don't believe you can put it down less than seven feet, if I am right, about seven feet. It is just like a human body, any lake is, and you



can ask the biologists about it, you have got one part of your body sick, you have to doctor the entire body by internal medicine sometimes to get it all affected.

Now, in Bossier Parish where it doesn't need too much drawdown because they are fortunate to have a deep water and you don't have too much of the weeds, but in Webster Parish and part of Bienville we are in the shallow water and the weeds are in pretty bad shape. Now, for my personal self, I am not a fisherman. The only way I can catch fish is when they just about jump in the boat, but I have a lot of friends that fish and I love to eat them and they give them to me, so I love to eat them.

Lake Bistineau has the misfortune of falling in three parishes and in the past, for the benefit of some who are not familiar with our fine lake that we have up there, it was created in the early 30's as a game preservation -- you are not even supposed to get, I believe it says in there, a rubber hose and stir the water up. You are not even supposed to get in there and night-fish or



whatever they do. Of course, that law still stands. It is a preserve, I guess you call it, for a water lake, for a pond. In the past it was abused and the laws have kept on getting weaker and finally the lake commission couldn't regulate it so the police jury right after I got on it managed to request it be taken out of the lake commission and turned over to the state, thinking that the state would not have as much politics in it as it does, and let the state regulate it, like they do most of the lakes in the rest of the state.

THE CHAIRMAN: Since you are on the police jury, I know that you understand politics and lobbying.

MR. KIRKIKIS: I do, I do, and we get a lot of pressure.

MR. BERRY: They just might give this lake back to those police jurors.

MR. KIRKIKIS: They have been trying. I believe that is all I have to say. The only thing, give us some consideration. If you can let us down July first, we will be tickled to death for this one year and probably it will dry and we



will have a hot summer and we won't have anything to worry about for the next five or six years, because I certainly am not going to bring it up now in the next two or three years.

MR. JONES: I just wanted to say, you people in North Louisiana haven't handled your situation like we do in South Louisiana. On the Mermentau River back in the 20's there was a big old dam put up by the rice farmers that was flooding all those Frenchmen out in the marsh and they woke up one morning, somebody heard an explosion in the middle of the night, and the dam has never been put back since. It is no longer there. That ended that problem.

MR. KIRKIKIS: Well, my father, we used to hunt ducks on Lake Bistineau. It was an excellent place when I was a kid and my father dammed it up, what we called the Morton camp area, and we used to dam it up there and it used to back up to Half Moon Slough. Excellent place for ducks. 25 duck limits in those days. But since the lake was built up and like it is at this time, they come to Catahoula, I believe. There is a lot of



food down here now, so they don't stop at Lake Bistineau.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Angelle, did you have something?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We have answered the language in your resolution, asking for a July 1 drawdown, which should be for your consideration at the next police jury meeting.

MR. KIRKIKIS: Good, good. We appreciate that.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: It may not be what you want to hear but we have answered it.

MR. KIRKIKIS: You are not going to tell me? You won't tell me what the answer is! Whatever you all can get funds to do, we will be tickled to death.

MR. WILLE: There is one thing that nobody has taken into consideration, and I am not going to say that this is since I have been on the Commission, we have been fortunate enough to get over \$100,000 appropriated for Lake Bistineau. There has never been any money appropriated, to my knowledge, in over a decade up there for that



particular lake. We are in the process of building a research station in Webster Parish, by the way, a research station where a fulltime biologist will be assigned to Lake Bistineau for aquatic weed control. We have a federal project right now in moss cutting up there.

I am not going to pass any comment at all about the lowering in July because I am waiting to see what the biologists say. Contrary to the belief of some of the people in Webster Parish, I am commissioner of Wild Life and Fisheries for the whole state and I will go with the biologists on their recommendation. I did the last time and I will this time.

MR. THOMPSON: I don't want you to think he is coy or whatever, but he is responsible for the money that you got. Don Wille is the one that instigated and helped, not by himself, but helped a lot.

MR. WILLE: And one other thing that I forgot to mention that we have got, too, in our capital outlay this year, and that is half a million dollars for a new district office to be built



in Webster Parish.

MR. KIRKIKIS: Good, good. Well, we appreciate the money, you know, but the drawdown in the past it was told to me was a poor man's way of regulating the lake and this would work pretty good and I think it still would be good. If we could get this lake, if the Good Lord would take care of it and bust it where the channel is and drop it all the way down, then we can put some locks at the channel, but drawing it down seven feet is just teasing it, so to speak. If we don't get the dry weather, we will not get any results whatsoever.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. BERRY: He thinks he has had trouble in the past. Wait until he gets all these new experts up there to help him.

MR. KIRKIKIS: I know.

THE CHAIRMAN: I can feel for him. Thank you very much, sir. I have another gentleman. It is on the same subject. It will be brief.

FROM THE FLOOR: I want to just say that I am mighty happy to hear Mr. Wille say what he did and I want to compliment this board, this blue



ribbon board. Most of you are good, honest-to-God hunters and fishers. Lake Bistineau is more than a two or three million dollar investment up there. It is an asset to the state of Louisiana if it can be developed. I was chairman of the last Lake Commission and I had a hand in trying to get it turned back to the state because I was tired of the bickering and fighting that was going on about what should be done to Lake Bistineau.

Now I like to hear him say that he will go along with what the biologists recommend. Now who knows what to do? I don't, but I do know this, if we don't do something to Lake Bistineau we are passing up one of the biggest natural opportunities. If the dam busted, we would still have a good lake to fish in. No kidding, if the dam busted, Lake Bistineau will still be there, but we have got something with the dam if we will just develop it and work with it, and there is only one way feasible to work with it. That is to get the thing down there long enough to dry that moss up, dry that ground up and let it crack open and let nature do its work or get back as close to nature as we



possibly can.

I am disturbed about you fellows losing your authority. No kidding. I am not going to be as hard on you as the gentleman that was just here a while ago. (Laughter) But I know this, that if you don't speak up, this plum that we have in these funds is too tempting to these politicians that run the state and they are going to try to get their clammy hands on it and I don't want that.

MR. THOMPSON: Amen!

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Please identify yourself, sir.

MR. ROY YARBOROUGH: I thank you, Mr. Luttrell and Gentlemen of the Commission, for this opportunity to stop by here today because I do want to talk to you about the season, but this is not in connection with that. I want to comment on Mr. Day's remarks and I hope you won't hold that against me and give me another opportunity.

Mr. Day, I never could understand really; it seemed that he was trying and wanted the Commission to dedicate this fee increase on license



fees to a certain game or a certain area of this nature. He had me quite confused, but I think the Commission would be interested to know, and if they drove throughout the state, they will find that the greater majority, at least 75, 90 percent of the sportsmen, they have no knowledge why this fee was being increased, but they didn't object to it. They felt that this Commission had the authority and, gentlemen, I think you do, truly. You may not have it as a Commission but you certainly have that authority to speak up to the legislature to use these funds, these monies, impartially. Don't give it to the quail people. Don't give it to the duck people. Give it to the deer, the squirrel, the turkey, give it to all game, just as you have in the past.

We don't know how you have used that money, that license fee money, in the past. Some of us have kept up with it, but you didn't hear us holler. We figured you were using it wisely. So I think that it is important for this Commission to recognize the fact that certainly the average and the good sportsman and the hunter is leaving



it up to your wisdom how to use it and use it impartially.

I read an article and I was surprised when I learned after the fee was increased, I was waiting to see what the Wild Life and Fisheries were going to do with it. I was looking for a good -- possibly some more agents and possibly some more game coming into areas, but I was very disappointed when I read an article where Wild Life and Fisheries and the legislature was going to use it only for the quail people, only for the duck people and, thirdly, what's left over, we are going to buy land for them. I assume it is for the quail people. I don't know.

But, to me, that's bad. It is real bad, to say, you help us politick this through the legislature and you come -- and that is what they said they did, they helped get it through the legislature. The people that did not come over and do any politicking, they accepted this increase and they expect to get their share of it. So, I would like to comment. Mr. Day did bring it up and I thought it was time, I felt it was the opportune



time to let the Commission know that throughout the state I hear the people talk and it is very, very resentful, and I would like to see the Commission, and beg of the Commission, speak up and express yourself and recognize impartially the monies you derive into the Commission.

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, sir.
Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: I think it ought to be said, the previous Constitution provided for one term called budgetary control that the Commission had. I want to tell you it meant nothing, simply because it meant that all we did was submit a budget to the legislature and if our biologists said this was where we want to spend the money during the next year, we would submit a nice budget to the Division of Administration and to the budget committee and to the legislature and by the time it got out of there, the views of those people who knew something about spending the money had absolutely no weight whatsoever, but when it says in the Constitution budgetary control, it has been construed to mean



nothing, because the people who are supposed to know something about wildlife in the state really don't get their say-so in making up the budget. The legislature does it. So, when we talk about, well, we have got to ram certain things through the legislature, we have to go politick the legislature just like anybody else does for anything else.

We meet every year. We see how much money we are going to have in the Conservation Fund. We get all the divisions to put their wants together and we work it with a nice budget. We submit it to the legislature, and when it comes out it looks nothing like what went in, and most of the time the big thing is they don't let us spend all the money that is in there.

So, the problem is not with the people that work with this Commission. The problem is the legislature itself does not let the budget go through as is proposed.

THE CHAIRMAN: I forgot to ask you, would you tell us who you represent, sir?

MR. YARBOROUGH: I am an individual.



THE CHAIRMAN: Just an individual.

MR. YARBOROUGH: Just an individual. I have a lot of friends, a lot of hunting friends. Also I do belong to a hunting association.

Mr. Jones, commenting on your remarks, I believe and I am very disappointed and I can't believe that the legislature would lean toward the recommendations of your biologists over this Commission.

MR. JONES: What I am saying is that the Commission through its staff prepares a budget every year and submits it to the legislature.

MR. YARBOROUGH: I understand, sir.

MR. JONES: And it is within the realm of the money we anticipate getting in. But once it gets to the legislature and the budget committee and the Division of Administration, by the time they chop it up, it looks nothing like the program that we submitted. We submit a program every year. For example, we submit a capital improvement program with the money to come out of the Conservation Fund. By the time it gets out of the legislature we have zero. They either won't let us spend the



money for what we want to spend it for or else we don't spend it at all. The problem is not with the Commission itself. The problem is with the setup in this state of budgetary control. When the Constitution says this Commission has budgetary control, it has none. None whatsoever. We submit a budget but when it comes out it is completely different.

THE CHAIRMAN: What he is trying to say, in this year's budget we asked for money to replace three or four of our district headquarters. When that comes back from the budget committee, that may not be in there.

MR. YARBOROUGH: I see what you mean. Politics got into it. O. K., thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Braud, you have been sitting back there, very, very patient. Come up.

MR. FRANCIS BRAUD: Could I make just a short statement?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. BRAUD: I am President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and I want to concur with the resolution the Commission just passed on the



establishment again of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in its own house. Right now, as it stands, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is under the Natural Resources group, which is five groups in that reorganization of state government. Since the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is, I would say, the daddy of this Commission, we helped to establish it, we helped fight three times to save it, twice in defeating a Constitutional amendment, to save, and one amendment that it would not mean hardly nothing to the sportsmen of the state as having the Commission in that form, so this is four times establishing it and three times defeating efforts to kill this Commission. We are of the opinion that this is the best form of wildlife management that we have in this country. A good many of the states have copied the operation of this Commission and went by it. Of course, a lot of them have lost it.

So, let's make it our business now that we don't lose it. I want to assure the Commission that we will do everything possible that we can before this session of the legislature is over to



see that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission be set in one slot by itself. You have 21, I think, now, and I think there might be an opening before this is over with so we will have a slot to put the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission into one slot by itself. This is how we would like to see it stay and I would urge all of you here today to go home, call your Representatives and your Senators and express to them our desire that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission remain as is by itself, not under an umbrella organization in this new Constitution.

I have worked continuously since the Constitutional Convention started, writing letters and meeting with the Natural Resources Committee concerning this. Also I would like to urge you to request of your Representatives and Senators that the Conservation Fund be reestablished as it was when Governor Edwards became governor. This is something that we need in our management of our wildlife, an assurance of a good Conservation Fund, because as you have heard today the Commission has bought some more property for wildlife management.



If I remember right I think that is up to date over 200,000 acres has been bought for wildlife management. To establish another Conservation Fund like it was before, we can be assured of another good purchase of wildlife land for wildlife management.

I thank you, gentlemen. I thank you, Mr. Luttrell, and Members of the Commission. I am sure that about Tuesday or Wednesday the Natural Resources Committee is going to start meeting on the reorganization and we should be there in force to express our opinion as to what we desire of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission position in this new organization. I thank you, gentlemen.

(Applause)

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I was informed that Tuesday afternoon it is not the House Natural Resources Committee that will hear Bill 1000 which deals with the reorganization. It will probably be the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and I understand they will meet Tuesday afternoon and will start hearing testimony on Bill 1000. To the press and the people that want to be present, this would be the time to try to get into Baton



Rouge and provide your views. It will not be a subcommittee hearing; it will be full committee hearing.

FROM THE FLOOR: Bill 1000 will help the Wild Life be separate?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No, House Bill 1000 is the reorganization and consolidation bill.

MR. BRAUD: And the Wild Life and Fisheries is already set into a framework under the Natural Resources, and we want to remove it out of there, leave it by itself. So, two o'clock Tuesday evening, and please watch the papers, and when these committees are going to meet, please call your Senators and Representatives to give us all the help you can. We need some help. Try to attend these meetings. Get your sportsmen's clubs in your area, get your elected officials to get with us if they can, and give us all the support that you can. I thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Braud. Gentlemen, we are trying to get through the general meeting, professional meeting, before we go into our seasons and bag limits. I have two other



people and if I could request them to be as brief as possible we can make that.

I am going to take this time to explain to Mr. Johnson, I see he wanted to speak before noon, and he has a petition, and I have to say this, Mr. Johnson -- is he still here? I have to say this, your petition, your resolution affects seasons and bag limits, so we have to take it in its regular order.

Now, Mr. Irving George, this doesn't affect seasons and bag limits, does it?

MR. IRVING GEORGE: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. GEORGE: I am Irving George from down in Maurice, Louisiana, and Crowley, Louisiana. I think this is about the third time this particular situation has come up about this high water and stuff in our duck feed. I have been fighting this particular situation for five or six years and I have written a thousand letters about it. The most recent letter I have written, and I think I have got something going now, this is in reference to the Mermentau basin. Mr. Jones knows what



I am talking about and he knows where I am at. The last letter I have written was January 20, 1975.

(Reading) "With reference to your January 9 postscript on concern for controlled water levels in Southwest Louisiana, more than a few attempts have been made by several area citizens concerned about what is being done by holding high water. To this day only once has this situation been relieved by keeping the Catfish Locks in Grand Lake open to drop the water level to its normal depth.

"The token move was short lived. The Corps of Engineers in New Orleans, who have undisputed control over the Catfish Locks, felt that this should appease this small group opposing this man-made destruction of our wetlands. Just one example of the effects that the high water is causing is Grand Lake. You can take this notice and you can check it for yourself. At the umbrella point where the navigation light was approximately 50 feet from the shoreline but now, as a result of high water which has caused the erosion of approximately 1,000 feet of land and vegetation, you can



now run a 25-foot boat between the lighthouse and the shoreline.

"Also at the point where the Mermentau River flows into Grand Lake, there was a dry land seldom flooded, known as Brown's Island, with an abundant stand of cypress trees and vegetation. The trees are still there but now a fellow can also run a 25-horsepower or 50-horsepower outboard motor over what was once dry land without hitting bottom.

"These two instances are just the damndest things you ever saw, but by far not only the problem created by the obstruction of namely the Catfish Locks. I was at a meeting not long ago in regard to some dredging and more obstruction and I asked the Corps of Engineers how they expected to pour a quart of water into a pint container without running it over. I am still waiting for an answer. The locks were originally installed a number of years ago to give relief to the farmers who were pumping water out of the Mermentau Basin but today 80 percent of the farmers have their own water and we do not need the water level held so



high, especially after the pumping season is over. Back in the old days they used to leave the locks open until the pumping season began, and this would allow a certain amount of salt water intrusion into our lowland and this would almost completely control that dreaded water hyacinth, alligator grass and other noxious plants that cannot propagate in salt water or in other words, briney water.

"Closing the Catfish Locks just before the pumping season and immediately opening them after the pumping season would help solve many problems for the ranchers, the trappers, the fishermen, and the sportsmen, and a multitude of other people who enjoy our wetlands. Keeping those locks closed like that, they are destroying millions of acres of marine and wildlife habitat. The only reason ever given for the ridiculous high water situation is to aid navigation on the Intra-coastal Waterway. The barge lines are increasing their already lucrative profits by using barges with much more cargo capacity, thus requiring much deeper water than is now available, and to get the



depth they are keeping the locks closed for a deeper draw for the large equipment and at the same time destroying millions of acres of marine and wildlife habitat.

"It seems to me that the New Orleans Corps of Engineers would realize just how much havoc and destruction they are creating by keeping these locks closed so much. If the barge companies need more depth in the Intracoastal, let them get in there and dredge or suck it out for more depth. If this complete disregard of requests from people throughout the entire state of Louisiana to the Corps of Engineers for relief from this ridiculous situation continues, I personally feel that with enough signatures on a petition, we could cause an investigation of their office by state officials or federal authorities and find out why minority barge line groups take preference over the well being of local people, especially the cattlemen, the fishermen, the trappers and the sportsmen. Why should, and I say why are we sitting around and not doing anything.

"I have been fighting this for five long



years. I need some help, boys. Stand up, fellows. Let yourself be known."

Now I have been fighting this for a long time and that is part of the situation. Mr. Yancey just got through explaining a minute ago. He has got the same proposition right out here on Catahoula Lake. I was raised in this part of the country. I know where that's at. When you keep that water as high as those people have been keeping that water down there in that part of the country, you destroy a tremendous amount of duck feed. We have no more ducks in that country, that Mermentau basin. There are millions of acres of land in there and those barge lines need to get out.

I went to every source in the state of Louisiana to try to get some help. I could get nobody. This is about the five-hundredth letter that I have written, not only to my local paper but I have written to many little towns and cities around me, so I could get people stirred up about this. You understand what I mean. But it seems as though now I am getting a little attention to



this particular fact, and I have something right here that I would just like to read to you.

After going through all the channels in this state that I thought I could go to locally and I got no response, I finally called my Congressman in Washington, John Breaux, my Seventh District Congressman, and now he got after that when I called him about this particular thing. He got after that and the Corps of Engineers wrote him a bunch of mail and stuff and they sent him graphs of them Catfish Locks but it would take an engineer to read them. Anyway, I have a lot of mail here from him. I know we haven't got the time to read it right here.

But I have another article here in mind. Here is what is finally being done. This just came out recently, you understand. What the Corps of Engineers intends on doing with the locks down there. Let's see. "A. All structures are to be opened for inside stages of approximately 2.0 feet mean low Gulf level or higher, except when high tide stages are equal or exceed the inside stage. Exact height depending on structures and conditions,



forecasting conditions. Gates are to be operated primarily for fish and wildlife benefit when feasible for inside storage of approximately 1.5 feet to 2.0 feet mean low level. Gates are to be operated from December through August to conserve fresh water and to exclude salt water for inside stages of .0 to approximately 1.5 feet mean Gulf level. During the rice irrigation season, April through August, when heavy withdrawals for irrigation exceed runoff and lake storage is being utilized, lake levels are to be maintained above zero mean low Gulf level stage by inflow from Vermilion Bay via Schooner Bayou control structure in order to recover the maximum amount of available fresh water storage in the lake. During the period from September 1 to December when greatest flexibility of operation is possible from the standpoint of other interests allowable stages most suitable for fish and wildlife production are to be given primary consideration in the operation of control structures within the limiting stages in "A" and "C" above. Revisions of the general plan and more detailed instructions will be issued as necessary



by the District of Engineers."

Now, I would like to mention something else about those Catfish Locks. When you keep that water up there that deep in that marsh, even during the duck season, ducks are not going to stay there, whether you have got any feed or not. They are not going to stay there for the simple reason they are puddle ducks and they have got to get down to the bottom to get to that feed. Today we are not using, I would say, 20 percent of the water we usually use out of the Mermentau basin for the simple reason that from my house I can take an air rifle and shoot on four deep well pumps there, from four to five of them right around me there, that are pumping their own water. Some of the canal companies in my country today are going broke for the simple reason that they don't, people have got their own irrigation today and they don't use that much water out of that Mermentau basin and we don't need that great water level.

Most of this I have found out is from those barge lines, you understand. They need that high water there to operate on and at the same time



the Corps of Engineers are keeping that water as high as they have been keeping it there, they are destroying a million acres of wildlife habitat. I have gone through that marsh in December when the duck season opened. I could take a three-horse motor and run right straight across the top of that marsh. I would like to show you some pictures that I have taken down there in that country when all the coons, small animals like that, muskrat, in that deep water didn't have feed to feed on for the simple reason that the water was too deep and all those coons were in those trees and you could feed them out of your hand.

Now, that's the Mermentau basin locks. It looks like I might be able to get a little something done.

I have another little article here. I will just get back to some of the other things I have been interested in here. Some of those draglines are getting in there and tearing up our streams and stuff, and I will just read you a few points right here that I have written. This is some of my mail that I write, not only to my local



paper but I send it to a lot of others, to advise people of what is happening. I am surprised at so many people being ignorant of just what channelization means to them. They don't understand the delicate balance of nature. They only believe in fighting nature for a living. There are people who just don't understand.

In 1974 U. S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia announced that the ASC was eliminating channelization from its program except in special situations, that is, breaks in stream banks and not in any channels and that work would be limited strictly to conservation projects and on the land.

I am getting back to this dragline and channelization. When you get in there with them draglines and start tearing up our streams created by the great architect of the universe, you are doing a lot of harm. You might get in there and tear up one stream but you are creating a problem somewhere else, and when you tear up those stream bottoms and stuff you are draining a lot of our wetlands and you are also at the same time creating a sand bottom there that the fish get that sand in



their gills and they smother out on that.

What I am interested in and up here today, gentlemen, not for the duck season, you understand. I think we have got a duck season and I would like to mention right here I think the point system is one of the greatest things that ever happened in this part of the country. People around here appreciate game and know them when they see them, and we have got a situation all over the country today that they will try to help out one place and at the same time they are creating a problem somewhere else.

I would like to say one thing for the Division here, and I am not calling any particular unit in the Division, but it seems so lately that we have got some boys going around here that have stopped singing that song, "I am looking for somebody to give my love to," and they are doing a little work today.

Thank you, gentlemen.

MR. BERRY: Thank you, Mr. George, and I am sure with your thinking and vitality we will get something accomplished on Catfish Locks.



We have one more gentleman here before noon and that is Mr. Henry LaCour.

MR. HENRY LACOUR: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission and citizens, I am Mr. LaCour, a concerned citizen. I have five subjects to cover: guns, DDT, fire ants, floods and books. I won't take too long. I came prepared.

As you know, the trend seems to be in America, do away with our guns. We don't need them. I have researched it. Now, as you know, the first man killed in the world wasn't with a gun. It was with a cane or stick. His name was Abel. Cain killed him. It is in the Bible. Now, for gun control, I done lots of research. Turn to your Bible, chapter of Luke 22, verse 35 and 36, and you see Jesus was against gun control. Now we have the support of the chief of police in L.A. He is against gun control, and I know the chief of police of Houston, Mr. Land. The hunters of Lake Charles circulated a letter we sent to Congress, to take away your bullets; if you want to get bullets in the near future you might not be able to get it. I sent this to Congress. I give this



to Bill Day. I know this. I get the Consumer Register. I am going to turn this over to the Commission. But the meeting, the meeting that creep up with us, overnight they don't know about it. I am aware. I let Bill Day know about it and he gets on the air.

Bullets. What they plan to do with your bullets. I just received this yesterday from Congressman Bob Sykes who is a friend of mine for 30 years. Listen. "Legislation against Weapons by Court Order." In other words, remember, we got court orders to bus. You are going to get court orders to shoot your weapon or not. Now it is right here. Remember that. The bullets. The first thing they do.

Now if you read a little further up in history, in Dusseldorf, Germany, May 19, 1919, we captured a secret document. The Rules of Revolution. Read it. I wrote it in the papers. I got it in the Pineville paper. Read it. They are going to take your weapons, the enemies of freedom. Now this is on weapons.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.



MR. LACOUR: Now, DDT. It is either DDT or the bugs. I have done research on DDT. I don't know if you have the register, but in case you don't, I have it. Here is a research I made. Now as you know, the insect may eventually be our food. The Japanese are already eating them. Chinese. Now all this is about DDT. Somebody somewhere in our country ought to have enough brains to find out who is going to inherit the earth, the insects or us.

Now, the history of the fire ant. When I moved, when I retired from the Air Force in '69 and bought a place on one acre, I had 96 hills of fire ants. I never heard of them until I really got down here. Done research on them. I want to know how to get rid of them. Mirex. Well, I put a teaspoon of Mirex in them 96 hills and they disappeared and that's all. Once in a while I might see one red ant.

Now, the history of the fire ants started off in Alabama, 1918. I will give this to the Commission and I would like to see in that book if you get permission to publish and all that.



When the flood leaves, when the water leaves, boy, they are going to take over. You can kill 95 percent of the fire ants but that five percent die hard and will multiply as fast as you can get rid of them. It is really interesting. Now they say here in this article from the Congressional Record the fire ant is stinging Alabama to death. Let's help George Wallace. (Applause) Save his state.

Now, on floods. Years ago, in May, 1927, I nearly got drowned in Moreauville, Louisiana. We had to highjack a boat and get to Mansour and the hills. Since then I have been fighting for flood control, doing research. It used to be that a flood was an act of God but it is not no more, it is an act of man. Will we have next year the same flooding conditions? Now a very interesting article appeared in the TIMES-PICAYUNE and the Alexandria TOWN TALK. "Flooding Theory is Confirmed." I advise the Commission here to look this article over and see where our problem is. We can't let our farmers here drown here and let the fire ants take over and all that. It is a very good article.



Paul Harvey wrote a very good article. He took an airplane and flew over the flooded area. Now this is good material. Now on the TOWN TALK they had an article. Some guy had a pump. Man, he could pump the Mississippi River over, string overnight and all that, so I sent that to Congressman Passman. He said it was impossible to pump all the water out of Louisiana and all that, cost so much money and all that. Remember, they kid us about our water down here. If it wouldn't be for Louisiana taking 60 percent of the water up north, them Yankees would be drowning.

Now I do lots of research. The old Farmer Almanac has a very good article for you fishermen. I am not going to give you that, but they made an experiment with a fish, a starfish. They broke one of his rays and they put it five miles away. They wiggle this one here, five miles away and it wiggled. It is something to look into. This may seem like a Buck Rogers story but on this here, look in it. You can buy them on the newsstand here and I have got it right over here, page 84, and it is worthwhile. Experiment with the



starfish. They have invisible muscles. They can move stuff five miles. Somebody thought it was bull.

Now I have done research. I know where a guy from Jacksonville, Florida, you couldn't drown him. He was a human cork and I spoke to the Navy one time, I got it in my file, and he would float in the water just like a fish. You couldn't drown him, but people think that is foolish.

Now, do you want to know all about the birds? This book here -- remember, whenever I bring any church or anything -- this is put out by the Ambassador College. I don't have extra copy but I tell you how to get one. This is one of the finest books about the flyway. You know the Mississippi Flyway and the Central Flyway, kind of spread out, and it seem like the birds lean more towards the left over there but I guarantee this book is worthwhile. It will tell you stuff about the birds from the crocodile days till today and all that.

It's another book, a whale of a tale. Now you know the platypus and all that. Years ago



they had parts of animals that was done away with. They all got together. Now this is a very good book. "A Whale of a Tale," all about animals.

And another thing, I got many copies scattered this area. I don't work for this insurance company. That is very good. I will tell you how to get it.

Now the main thing I am trying to do is educate the public. The first thing you see a bird, they want to shoot it. Now where I live we have birds. I feed them. They get to know you. Remember, we are down here to protect our wildlife and all that. One thing I would like our Governor or somebody to do is to keep you and put you somewhere as a separate department, not lose you in the shuffle. Now when I went to this Constitution hearing, they said they was going to give me two minutes to talk, and I said, "I came out here for two and a half hours," and they thought I was kidding. You ask Representative Thompson and Mr. Stagg, I gave them the best two hours and a half education they ever received in the state of Louisiana. (Laughter)



MR. BERRY: We haven't got two and a half hours!

MR. LACOUR: I am about ready. Again I want to thank you for what you are doing. When I was small, I hunted and fished. Nowadays I am old and all that and vanishing away probably. I appreciate what you done. All I can do for you is offer you my support, do research, and if I think there is any worthwhile to bring up next meeting, I will do it. Thank you. (Applause)

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. LaCour, could you give us a little research on the water hyacinth? This has been a real problem in Louisiana. Give us a report on it.

MR. LACOUR: All right.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move we adjourn until one-thirty.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Motion and second. So ordered.

. . . Thereupon, the formal meeting of the Board was adjourned, to be



reconvened at 1:30 o'clock p.m.
on May 23, 1975, for public hear-
ing on seasons and bag limits. . . .

